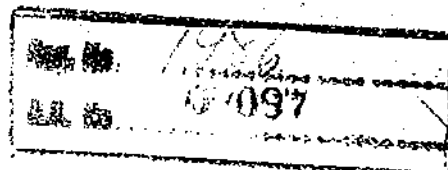


BB60/A9-4/A12
(017)

F-48
U. S. S. ALABAMA



DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

February 4, 1944.

From: / Commanding Officer.
To : / Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: War Diary - Forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 Serial
7152 of October 29, 1943.
Enclosure: / (A) USS ALABAMA War Diary for month of
January 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure
(A) is forwarded herewith.

F. D. Kirtland
F. D. KIRTLAND.

Copy to:
Cincpac.

Recorded

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9
of 27 SEP 58
BY 91C DATE 10 APR 1960

64878

FILMED

U. S. S. ALABAMA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF JANUARY, 1944

SATURDAY, January 1, 1944

At Havannah, our harbor this hour so late,
At anchor we're sitting in berth number eight.
Near the Isle of Efate in New Hebrides,
A bottom of sand our port anchor doth seize.
The water is deep, forty fathoms at best,
And of chain ninety fathoms has kept us at rest.
Or beacons for fixes we have only three;
(The bearings are true to the nearest degree)
It's one twenty-nine to the beacon marked "E",
While the beacon marked "Z" cuts at zero one three.
At zero eight one is light "F" at this hour,
While at one eighty-six stands the old Signal Tower.
The books say we're darkened (that's really a joke!)
But for hatches and doors we have modified "Yoke".
For auxiliary use boiler one we are steaming,
And the oil that it eats keeps the taxpayers screaming.
For the juice that we use in our many small staters,
We've pulled from the hat "one" and "two" generators.
The ships here at anchor are many and rine,
And our S.O.P.A. now is ComBatDiv Nine;
He's embarked in the too famous Battleship "X",
(U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA whose rhyme is complex).
INDIANA, MEDUSA, and old KANKAKEE,
MASSACHUSETTS, ALDEBERAN, STACK we can see,
There are other small craft which are many and various,
Not to list them is handy and really not serious.

ALABAMA a unit of Task Group 37.1 under Commander South Pacific Force.

SUNDAY, January 2, 1944

Anchored as before at Havannah Harbor, Efate, New Hebrides.

MONDAY, January 3, 1944

Anchored as before at Havannah Harbor, Efate, New Hebrides.

TUESDAY, January 4, 1944

Anchored as before at Havannah Harbor, Efate, New Hebrides.
Received nine (9) Japanese prisoners of war for transportation and further transfer.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WEDNESDAY, January 5, 1944.

Anchored as before in Havannah Harbor, Efate, New Hebrides. At 1224 underway, enroute Pearl Harbor, T.H. in accordance with a despatch from Commander Third Fleet dated January 2, 1944. Formed Task Unit 34.5.3 upon getting underway. Task Unit consists of U.S.S. ALABAMA (CPU and OTC), U.S.S. STACK and U.S.S. STERETT. Fired 5"/38 cal., 40MM and 20MM batteries at drone at 1426 and ceased firing at 1519.
Positions: (2000) 17-02 S, 169-24 E.

THURSDAY, January 6, 1944.

Steaming as before. Fired 20MM and 40MM batteries at towed sleeve target during afternoon.
Positions: (0800) 15-49.2 S, 172-44 E,
(1200) 15-28.6 S, 173-50.3 E,
(2000) 15-23 S, 176-23.8 E.

THURSDAY, January 7-6, 1944.

Steaming as before. At 0100, January 7, set all clocks back 23 hours to 0200 January 6, to plus 11 Zone time. Conducted tracking exercise during forenoon.
Positions: (0300) 15-10.3 S, 179-56.5 E,
(1200) 15-09.2 S, 178-44 E,
(2000) 15-10.8 S, 176-02 W.

FRIDAY, January 7, 1944.

Steaming as before. Fired 20MM and 40MM batteries at towed sleeve targets during afternoon.
Positions: (0800) 13-03.3 S, 173-15.9 W,
(1200) 12-07.5 S, 172-29 W,
(2000) 09-58.7 S, 171-00 W.

SATURDAY, January 8, 1944.

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. STACK and U.S.S. STERETT alongside during afternoon.
Positions: (0800) 06-45.4 S, 168-43 W,
(1200) 05-41.6 S, 168-00 W,
(2000) 04-11.2 S, 166-58 W.

SUNDAY, January 9, 1944

Steaming as before.
Positions: (0800) 01-9.5 S, 164-36 W.
(1200) 00-02.8 S, 163-50.5 W.
(2000) 02-09.3 N, 162-16.4 W.

U.S.S. ALABAMA

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MONDAY, January 10, 1944.

Steaming as before. Conducted battle problem during afternoon, and fired machine gun batteries at towed sleeve targets.

Positions: (0800) 05-44.1 N, 160-50.1 W,
(1200) 07-05 N, 160-37.6 W,
(2000) 09-27.8 N, 160-03.5 W.

TUESDAY, January 11, 1944

Steaming as before. Set clocks ahead one hour to plus 10 Zone time.

Positions: (0800) 12-57 N, 159-31.3 W,
(1200) 14-08.4 N, 159-06 W,
(2000) 16-30 N, 158-47.5 W.

WEDNESDAY, January 12, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0100 set clocks ahead 1/2 hour to plus 9 1/2 Zone time. Fired secondary battery at towed sleeve targets during forenoon and afternoon. At 1739 entered Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, and moored in drydock No. 2 at 1915.

Positions: (0800) 20-00.2 N, 158-17.3 W,
(1200) 20-33.7 N, 158-05.0 W.

THURSDAY, January 13, 1944

Moored as before at Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, T.H. At 0800 Navy Yard commenced pumping drydock. Ship rested on keel blocks at 0825. Transferred nine (9) Japanese prisoners of war to the Navy Yard.

FRIDAY, January 14, 1944

Drydocked as before. Ship undergoing emergency navy yard period for replacement of port outboard propeller, and for routine cleaning and painting of bottom. Received ammunition and stores during afternoon.

SATURDAY, January 15, 1944

Drydocked as before. At 0845 Navy Yard commenced flooding drydock. At 1223 ship floated. Remained moored in the drydock.

SUNDAY, January 16, 1944

Moored as before. At 1215 underway from Pearl Harbor, T.H., enroute Funa Futi, Ellice Islands. U.S.S. STERETT and STACK formed anti-submarine screen, OTC and guide (C.T.U. 34.5.3) in ALABAMA.

Positions: (2000) 19-38 N, 159-18 W.

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U.S.S. ALABAMA

MONDAY, January 17, 1944

Steaming as before. Conducted test firing of 5-inch battery during forenoon. Fired machine gun battery at sleeve targets during the afternoon. At 1900 set clocks back one hour to plus 10½ Zone time. Conducted general quarters for night exercises at 1945.

Positions: (0800) 16-41 N, 162-00 W.
(1200) 15-35 N, 162-59 W.
(2000) 13-39.5 N, 164-35.3 W.

TUESDAY, January 18, 1944

Steaming as before. Fired 5-inch and 40 MM batteries at A.A. bursts during forenoon. At 1530 set clocks back 1/2 hour to plus 11 Zone time.

Positions: (0800) 10-44.4 N, 167-10.5 W.
(1200) 09-38.6 N, 168-05 W.
(2000) 07-32.8 N, 169-38 W.

WEDNESDAY, January 19, 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. STERETT alongside during forenoon. Fired 16" offset calibration practice, U.S.S. STACK as target, during afternoon.

Positions: (0800) 04-22 N, 172-07.2 W,
(1200) 03-41.8 N, 172-43.8 W,
(2000) 01-58.7 N, 174-16 W.

THURSDAY, January 20, 1944

Steaming as before. Fired machine gun battery at towed sleeve target during forenoon. Conducted full-power run from 1300 to 1602.

Positions: (0800) 01-13.5 S, 176-45 W,
(1200) 02-21.8 S, 177-24 W,
(2000) 04-55.2 S, 178-54.8 W.

FRIDAY, January 21, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0944 anchored in Berth "B", Funa Futi, Ellice Islands. At 1330 set clocks back one hour to plus 12 Zone time. At 1820 fueled ship from U.S.S. SEPULGA.

SATURDAY, January 22, 1944

Anchored as before at Funa Futi, Ellice Islands. Ships present: U.S.S. CASCADE (ComServRon 4, SOPA), IOWA, NEW JERSEY, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA, PENSACOLA, CHESTER, SALT LACE CITY, BUNKER HILL, MONTEREY, IZARD, BURNS, ABBOT, ERBEN, BRADFORD, STACK, STERETT, LANG, BELL, HALE, BROWN, COWELL, WILSON, WALKER, CHARRETTE, CONNER, TISDALE, GILLESPIE, WELLER, RAINIER, BEAGLE, SPICA, BOREAS, VESTAL, SEPULGA, RIO GRANDE, and various merchant vessels and small craft.

U.S.S. ALABAMA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SUNDAY, January 23, 1944

Anchored as before. At 0806 sortied from Funa Futi, Ellice Islands, in accordance with Commander Task Group 58.5 OpOrd 1-44, and this vessel became a unit of Task Group 58.5. Formed cruising disposition 3-L with units of Task Group 58.5, CTG in WASHINGTON, guide in LACKAWANNA. Composition of Task Group 58.5: BatDivs 6, 7, 8 and 9, BUNKER HILL, MON TEREY, CHESTER, PENSACOLA, SALT LAKE CITY, LACKAWANNA, DesRon 46 less BOYD, DesDiv 15, DesDiv 95 less STEMBEL, and TISDALE. This force engaged in war operation which is designated "FLINTLOCK".

Positions: (0800) 08-50.5 S, 178-47.5 E.
(1200) 08-50 S, 178-47.5 E,
(2000) 08-44.9 S, 176-43.8 E.

MONDAY, January 24, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0950 exercised at "Air Attack" stations.
Positions: (0800) 06-55 S, 174-22 E.
(1200) 06-24.5 S, 173-30.2 E.
(2000) 05-17.5 S, 171-43.1 E.

TUESDAY, January 25, 1944

Steaming as before in company with Task Group 58.5. At 0641 left formation and joined formation with Task Group 58.2, and became a unit thereof. Task Group 58.2 (Carrier Group No. 2) consists of the following vessels: U.S.S. ESSEX (CTG and OTC), INTREPID, CABOT, SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, NORTH CAROLINA, SAN DIEGO, OWEN, THE SULLIVANS, STEPHEN POTTER, HICKOX, HUNT, LEWIS HANCOCK, LANG, STERETT, STACK. At 1510 fueled ship from U.S.S. KASKASKIA completion operation being accomplished at 1535. Upon completion of fueling this task group formed Cruising Disposition 5-R, U.S.S. KASKASKIA, Fleet Guide. At 1858 U.S.S. STERETT left formation to investigate sound contact and at 1902 dropped depth charges, and returned to formation - results of attack undetermined.

Positions: (0800) 02-46.2 S, 171-31.8 E
(1200) 02-16.7 S, 171-42.3 E
(2000) 00-59.8 S, 171-03.7 E.

WEDNESDAY, January 26, 1944

Steaming as before, in company with Task Group 58.2 and Fueling Group. At 0203 KASKASKIA reported a small craft on her starboard beam. The Group made an emergency turn to avoid the contact. ESSEX assumed guide. During afternoon conducted General Quarters for Shore Bombardment Drill.

Positions: (0800) 02-29.7 S, 171-34.9 E.
(1200) 02-08.8 S, 171-28 E.
(2000) 01-56.2 S, 170-54 E.

U.S.S. ALABAMA

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THURSDAY, January 27, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0328 crossed equator into North Latitude. At 0830 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, with Commander Central Pacific Force embarked therein, joined the formation.

Positions: (0800) 01-02 N, 169-51.3 E.
(1200) 01-36 N, 168-53.2 E.
(2000) 02-33.5 N, 166-57 E.

FRIDAY, January 28, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0730 formed fueling disposition. At 0804 fueled U.S.S. LANG alongside, completing operation at 0845. At 0918 fueled U.S.S. OWEN alongside, completing operation at 1018. At 0931 fueled U.S.S. HANCOCK, completing operation at 1042. At 1124 the Group formed cruising disposition 5-R. During afternoon conducted General Quarters for Shore Bombardment Drill.

Positions: (0800) 03-37.3 N, 166-00.7 E.
(1200) 03-57.5 N, 166-28.3 E.
(2000) 06-07.8 N, 165-56.2 E.

SATURDAY, January 29, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0930 U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA, LANG and STERETT left the formation to conduct shore bombardment. Carriers launched aircraft throughout the day for submarine and air patrol.

Positions: (0800) 08-07.1 N, 166-18.7 E.
(1200) 08-02.8 N, 166-17.5 E.
(2000) 08-24.5 N, 166-36.1 E.

SUNDAY, January 30, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0125 sighted gunfire and searchlights bearing 017° true, distance 20,000 yards. At 0150 U.S.S. BURNS reported that she had sunk four (4) ships of an enemy convoy. At 0530, in accordance with orders of OTC, Task Unit 58.2.2 consisting of U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA (OTC), ALABAMA, INDIANAPOLIS, STACK, HICKOX, and HUNT, left formation to proceed to bombard Roi Island, Kwajalein Atoll, initial course 100° true. At 0917 U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA rejoined this Group. At 0930, U.S.S. STERETT and LANG took positions in screen. At 1015 sounded General Quarters for shore bombardment. At 1031 battleships launched aircraft for spotting of bombardment. At 1057 commenced bombardment of Roi and Namur Islands, Kwajalein Atoll, of the Marshall Islands. Fired 16" and 5" batteries. At 1208 completed first phase of bombardment. At 1242 commenced second phase of bombardment; ceased firing at 1425. At 1516 battleships recovered aircraft. At 1600 fired 5" battery and ceased firing at 1622, shore bombardment completed. Ammunition expended: 1562 rounds 5"/38 cal. AA common; 276 rounds 16"/45 cal. H.C.; 45 rounds 16"/45 cal. A.P.

Positions: (0800) 09-42.3 N, 166-16.3 E
(1200) 09-27.3 N, 167-32.6 E
(2000) 10-19 N, 167-48 E.

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U.S.S. ALABAMA

097

MONDAY, January 31, 1944

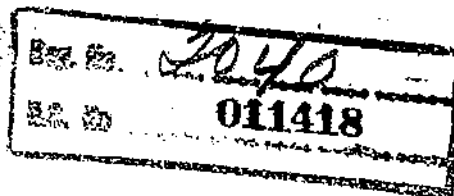
Steaming as before. At 0307 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS left formation. This force patrolling area north of Kwajalein Atoll. Carriers launched aircraft throughout the day for further air attacks on Kwajalein Atoll and for submarine and air patrol.

Positions: (0800) 09-33 N, 165-42.2 E.
(1200) 09-34.5 N, 165-54.4 E.
(2000) 10-26.2 N, 166-54.3 E.

F. D. Kirtland
F. D. KIRTLAND,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 032

F-48
U. S. S. ALABAMA



DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

4 March 1944.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: WAR DIARY - Forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 Serial
7152 of October 29, 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA War Diary for month
of February 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure
(A) is forwarded herewith

F. D. Kirtland
F. D. KIRTLAND.

Copy to:
Cincpac.

Recorded

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9
of 27 SEP 58
BY 91C DATE 1 APR 1960

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OFFICE
NAVY DEPT WASH DC

67157 **FILMED**

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Month of February, 1944

TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY, 1944

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.2 consisting of U.S.S. ESSEX (Guide and O.T.C.), U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH CAROLINA, INTREPID, CABOT, SAN DIEGO, and Destroyer Divisions Fifteen and One Hundred Four. This Task Group patrolling area north of Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, to protect from enemy sea and air attack, the ground forces occupying Roi and Namur Islands of Kwajalein Atoll. Keeping zone Plus 12 time. Carrier aircraft maintained Combat Air Patrol over the formation. Battleships of this group fueled destroyers during the afternoon ALABAMA fueled U.S.S. STACK, U.S.S. OWEN, U.S.S. HICKOX and U.S.S. HUNT.

Positions: 0800 - 09-33 N, 165-37.2 E.
1200 - 09-47 N, 166-05 E.
2000 - 10-20.1 N, 169-12.9 E.

WEDNESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY, 1944.

Steaming as before. At 0817 U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA, STERETT, and STACK left the formation and proceeded independently. Carrier aircraft maintained Combat Air Patrol over the formation throughout the day.

Positions: 0800 - 09-28 N, 166-29.5 E
1200 - 09-46.4 N, 166-53.7 E.
2000 - 10-17.5 N, 168-07.4 E.

THURSDAY, 3 FEBRUARY, 1944.

Steaming as before. During forenoon changed course, proceeding to Majuro Atoll in accordance with despatch orders of C.T.F. 58.

Positions: 0800 - 09-55.9 N, 166-43 E
1200 - 09-50.6 N, 167-25.6 E.
2000 - 09-42.7 N, 168-26 E.

FRIDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 1904 anchored in Berth A-10, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Positions: 0800 - 07-19 N, 171-02 E.
1200 - 07-22 N, 170-55.9 E.

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SATURDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 1944 through
FRIDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll, various ships of the Central Pacific Force present. SOPA in U.S.S. WASHINGTON (Commander Battleships Pacific Fleet). Received fuel and ammunition. On 11 February, U.S.S. WASHINGTON stood out; U.S.S. PECOS became SOPA.

SATURDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll. At 1706 sortied from Majuro and formed cruising disposition 5-LS in company with Task Group 58.3 composed of the U.S.S. BUNKER HILL (Guide and O.T.C.), U.S.S. COWPENS, MONTEREY, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, (ComCenPac embarked therein), MASSACHUSETTS, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, IZARD, CHARETTE, CONNER, BELL, BRADFORD, BURNS, BROWN, COWELL, LANG, STERETT and WILSON. This Group proceeding in accordance with ComCenPac Operation Plan Cen5-44 and C.T.G. 58.3 Operation Plan 2-44, in execution of operation designated as "Catchpole".

Positions: 0800 - Majuro
1200 - Majuro
2000 - 07-51 N, 170-36.8 E.

SUNDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. Carrier aircraft maintained Combat Air Patrol over the formation throughout the day.

Positions: 0800 - 10-12 N, 167-48.2 E.
1200 - 10-39.1 N, 166-46.2 E.
2000 - 10-54.8 N, 164-41.1 E.

MONDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 1641 formed cruising disposition 5-T, U.S.S. NEW JERSEY (Guide and O.T.C.). Carrier aircraft maintained Combat Air Patrol over the formation throughout the day.

Positions: 0800 - 12-30.8 N, 161-29 E.
1200 - 12-39 N, 161-36.1 E.
2000 - 12-59.5 N, 161-06.4 E.

TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. Fired 40MM battery for tests during the forenoon. Carrier aircraft maintained Combat Air Patrol over the formation.

WAR DIARY

U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1944

TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 1944 (Cont'd)

Positions: 0800 - 12-20.8 N, 158-21.3 E.
1200 - 12-39.4 N, 161-36.1 E.
2000 - 12-59.5 N, 161-06.4 E.

WEDNESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 0800 U.S.S. BUNKER HILL assumed guide. At 0925 carriers completed launching aircraft for first air strike against Japanese installation, aircraft, and ships at TRUK, other units of this group covering carriers against attack by enemy air or surface forces. Carriers launched and recovered aircraft throughout the day for continuous strikes against Truk, the last flight being recovered at 2059. At 1131 BatDiv 7 and DesDiv 91 less BELL plus BRADFORD left the formation to attack enemy surface forces reported to be leaving Truk. Task Group 58.3 made no contacts with the enemy during this operation.

Positions: 0800 - 08-23.3 N, 153-15 E.
1200 - 08-03 N, 153-11 E.
2000 - 08-02.2 N, 153-57.8 E.

THURSDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 1944.

Steaming as before. At 0843 BatDiv 7 and DesDiv 91 less Bell plus Bradford rejoined the formation and formation changed to cruising disposition 5-LS. At 1613 MONTEREY assumed guide.

Positions: 0800 - 07-19.5 N, 153-37 E.
1200 - 07-21.1 N, 153-25 E.
2000 - 08-42.5 N, 156-06 E.

FRIDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. In accordance with CTF 58 Operation Plan No. 3-44, this group now proceeding in execution of operation designated as "Gateway", without change in composition of the Task Group. During the afternoon Fueling Group joined formation, U.S.S. PLATTE assumed guide. At 1903 U.S.S. NEW JERSEY and BURNS left the formation.

Positions: 0800 - 08-23.8 N, 159-46.7 E.
1200 - 08-20.7 N, 161-00.6 E.
2000 - 08-32.8 N, 162-18.3 E.

WAR DIARY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60)

MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1944

SATURDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 0445 two unidentified aircraft contacts were picked up by radar which were later identified as enemy craft. U.S.S. IZARD opened fire on enemy aircraft at 0503 and shot down one. The force made emergency turns in order to avoid remaining aircraft, which later retired, and the force resumed cruising disposition 5-LS with U.S.S. PLATTE as formation guide. Task Group fueled from tankers during forenoon and afternoon. At 1647 U.S.S. BUNKER HILL assumed guide. Fueling group departed from the formation, fueling operations having been completed. Carrier aircraft maintained Combat Air Patrol over the formation during the day.

Positions: 0800 - 09-25.2 N, 159-58.8 E.
1200 - 09-59.5 N, 160-22.8 E.
2000 - 11-07.8 N, 160-43.8 E.

SUNDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. Task Groups 58.2 and 58.3 steaming within T.B.S. range. During afternoon battleships fueled destroyers. ALABAMA fueled U.S.S. CLARENCE K. BRONSON, DORTCH and HEALY. Upon completion of fueling formed cruising disposition 5-R, guide in U.S.S. ESSEX.

Positions: 0800 - 14-41.2 N, 159-15 E.
1200 - 15-55 N, 158-53.7 E.
2000 - 16-01 N, 158-24.6 E.

MONDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 2035 group formed cruising disposition 5-V. At 2255 went to "Air Attack" stations upon receiving report of unidentified aircraft contact, which was later identified as enemy. Opened fire with starboard 5" battery at 2319½, aircraft having closed to within range. Remained at Air Attack stations firing as necessary to repel air attack. During the first firing 5" Mount No. 9 was fired while in stops, firing into Mount No. 5 and killing five men, injuring eleven. Killed in action: LEOPARD, D.E., Jr, GM2c, USN; VEGAS, M.R., Slc, USNR; ROBERTS, A.D., S2c, USNR; TROJAN, M., GM3c, USNR, and LANGSTON, R.L., Stmlc, USN.

Positions: 0800 - 15-46.9 N, 154-50.2 E.
1200 - 15-30.5 N, 153-50 E.
2000 - 15-11.7 N, 151-09.8 E.

WAR DIARY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60)

TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. Under attack by enemy aircraft, firing AA battery as necessary to repel attack. At 0313 secured from "Air Attack" stations, attack having ceased. At 0542 sounded "Air Attack" and opened fire with 5" battery to repel enemy aircraft. Remained at "Air Attack" stations until 1200, when enemy aircraft retired. At 0730 carriers of this force launched aircraft for air strikes against installations, aircraft, and ships at the islands of Tinian and Saipan in the Marianas Islands. Carriers launched and recovered aircraft at intervals to maintain continuous air strikes on objectives in the Marianas. At 1434, flight operations completed, this force steamed on retiring course. At 1657 U.S.S. YORKTOWN assumed guide. At 1819 BELLEAU WOOD assumed guide. During late evening held "burial at sea" services for the five men killed in action of 21 February. The action commencing at 2255, 21 February and ending at 1200, 22 February is covered in detail by U.S.S. ALABAMA Action Report, Confidential Letter BB60/A16-3 Serial 026 dated 25 February 1944.

Positions: 0800 - 15-02 N, 147-50.1 E.
1200 - 14-50 N, 147-44.5 E.
2000 - 14-50.2 N, 148-53.8 E.

WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 1714 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. SANTA FE guide. Steaming in company with Task Group 58.2,

Positions: 0800 - 14-48.1 N, 153-03 E.
1200 - 14-51.3 N, 154-16 E.
2000 - 14-58 N, 156-45.7 E.

THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 0800 formed fueling disposition 5-F. Fueled U.S.S. DORTCH, BRONSON and HEALY during forenoon. At 1148 U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA and ALABAMA, with 2 destroyers as escort left the formation to join Task Group 58.3. At 1222 joined formation with Task Group 58.3, U.S.S. BUNKER HILL OTC and Guide, in disposition 5-LS. At 1310 U.S.S. IOWA assumed formation guide. At 1315 U.S.S. BALTIMORE with 2 destroyers as escort left the formation to join Task Group 58.2.

Positions: 0800 - 13-47 N, 160-12.4 E.
1200 - 13-59.5 N, 169-42.3 E.
2000 - 13-21 N, 162-35.6 E.

WAR DIARY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60)

FRIDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. From 1012 until 1032 test fired Mark 32 fuzes. At 1212 U.S.S. MONTEREY assumed formation guide. At 2000 U.S.S. BUNKER HILL assumed formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 12-17.2 N, 166-11.1 E.
1200 - 12-08.5 N, 167-18 E.
2000 - 10-03.5 N, 167-58.3 E.

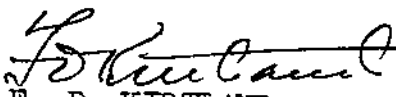
SATURDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 1944

Steaming as before. At 1022 entered channel at Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands and anchored in Berth E-1 at 1215. Upon anchoring, ALABAMA became a unit of Task Group 50.9.

Positions: 0800 - 07-42 N, 171-01.6 E.

SUNDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 1944 through
TUESDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 1944

Anchored as before at Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. SOPA Majuro in U.S.S. PRAIRIE. Numerous ships of the Central Pacific Force present.


F. D. KIRTLAND,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 045

U. S. S. ALABAMA

DECLASSIFIED

6 April 1944.

Reg. No.	2088
R.S. No.	018525

F-43

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.
Subject: WAR DIARY - Forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 Serial
7152 of October 29, 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA War Diary for month of
March, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure
(A) is forwarded herewith.

F. D. Kirtland
F. D. KIRTLAND.

Copy to:
Cincpac.

Recorded

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9

of 27 SEP 58

BY 91C DATE 1 APR 1960

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF MARCH, 1944

Wednesday, 1 March 1944

Anchored in Berth E-1, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. Ships present: U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW MEXICO, MISSISSIPPI, IDAHO, TENNESSEE, SOUTH DAKOTA, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW JERSEY, IOWA, ENTERPRISE, YORKTOWN, BELLEAU WOOD, DIXIE (SOPA Administration), and various other warships and small craft of the Central Pacific Force. Admiral R.A. SPRUANCE, USN, Commander Central Pacific Force, embarked in U.S.S. NEW JERSEY. Ship is keeping Zone plus 12 time. Court of Inquiry, with Captain A.E. Smith, USN, (U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA) as senior member, met on board to investigate the facts surrounding the recent casualty to 5-inch Mount No. 5.

Thursday, 2 March 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Friday, 3 March 1944

Anchored as before. At 1100 Rear Admiral M.A. MITSCHER, C.T.F. 58 (ComCarDiv 3), shifted his flag from U.S.S. YORKTOWN to U.S.S. ALABAMA temporarily, to await arrival of U.S.S. LEXINGTON. At 1630 Commander Lewis Wallace, USN, relieved Commander Robert L. Campbell, USN, as Executive Officer.

Saturday, 4 March 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Sunday, 5 March 1944

Anchored as before. At 1328 an unidentified aircraft contact was reported by SOPA. Sounded "Air Attack" at 1329, and secured at 1405 contact having been lost. Again at 1928 "Air Attack" was sounded upon receipt of report from SOPA of an unidentified aircraft contact. Secured from "Air Attack" stations at 1945, no further contact having been reported.

Monday, 6 March 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands.

018525

Tuesday, 7 March 1944

Anchored as before. At 1704 underway. Shifted berths; anchoring in Berth A-3.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

Wednesday, 8 March 1944

Anchored as before. Fired 5-inch, 40MM and 20MM batteries at towed sleeve targets from 0905 until 1530. At 1302 Rear Admiral M.A. MITSCHER, USN, CTG 58 (ComCardiv 3), shifted his flag from U.S.S. ALABAMA to U.S.S. LEXINGTON. At 1700 underway. Shifted berths from Berth A-3 to E-4.

Thursday, 9 March 1944 to
Thursday, 16 March 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. During this period various ships of the Central Pacific Force stood in and out of the Lagoon.

Friday, 17 March 1944

Anchored as before. At 0645 underway. Shifted berths from Berth E-4 to A-9. Fired 5-inch, 40MM and 20MM batteries at towed sleeve targets from 0900 until 1120. At 1147 underway. Shifted berths from Berth A-9 to E-4.

Saturday, 18 March 1944 to
Tuesday, 21 March 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. During this period various ships of the Central Pacific Force stood in and out of the Lagoon.

Wednesday, 22 March 1944

Anchored as before. At 1032 underway in accordance with Task Group 58.9 Sortie Plan No. 1-44. Upon getting underway ALABAMA became a unit of Task Group 58.9 (Vice Admiral W.A. Lee, Jr., USN, ComBatPac, C.T.G., in U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA); Task Force 58 (Vice Admiral M. A. MITSCHER, USN, C.T.F., in U.S.S. LEXINGTON). Composition of Task Group 58.9: U.S.S. LEXINGTON, COWPENS, BatDiv EIGHT, BatDiv NINE, CruDiv FOUR, DesRon 46 less BOYD, DesDiv 23 less COGHLAN plus FRAZIER and MEADE. At 1158 this Task Group formed cruising disposition 5-R, and cruising disposition 5-U with Task Groups 58.2 and 50.15. This formation proceeding on operation designated as "DESECRATE ONE" in accordance with CTF 50 Operation Order Cen8-44.

Positions: (0800) 07-17-21 N; 171-09-55 E.
(2000) 07-00.6 N; 169-35.0 E.

Thursday, 23 March 1944

Steaming as before. At 1406 left the formation for test firing of 5-inch Mount No. 5. Commenced test firing at 1425 and completed at 1451.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

Thursday, 23 March 1944 (Continued)

No casualty occurred during test firing of this mount which had been repaired by the ship's force after having been fired into by another mount on the previous operation. At 1520 resumed station in the disposition. At 1845 U.S.S. IZARD reported submarine contact. The Force was maneuvered by emergency turns in order to avoid any attack by submarine. No further contacts were reported by the IZARD. At 1900 set all clocks back one hour to Plus 13 Zone time (using West Longitude date). At 2400 set all clocks ahead 24 hours to Minus 11 Zone time.

Positions: (0800) 05-07 N; 167-13 E
(1200) 04-13.9 N; 166-48.1 E.
(2000) 02-26 N; 165-27.2 E.

Saturday, 25 March 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: (0800) 00-48.5 N; 162-37 E.
(1200) 00-16 N; 161-40.7 E.
(2000) 00-47.1 N; 159-43 E.

Sunday, 26 March 1944

Steaming as before. At 0722 formed cruising disposition 5-F with the Fueling Group, U.S.S. TAPPAHANNOCK guide. 0950 maneuvered to clear the formation to conduct test firing. At 1038 commenced firing machine gun battery at towed sleeve target for test firing. 1201 ceased firing, and resumed station in the formation. At 1500 the Fueling Group left the formation and proceeded independently. At 1632 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA guide.

Positions: (0800) 02-01.8 S; 156-34 E.
(1200) 01-53.1 S; 156-00 E.
(2000) 01-35.1 S; 154-19.8 E.

Monday, 27 March 1944

Steaming as before. At 1201 Task Group 58.9 dissolved. Task Group 58.3, with Rear Admiral S. P. Ginder, USN, in U.S.S. YORKTOWN, C.T.G. and O.T.C., formed cruising disposition 5-R, and consisted of the following vessels: U.S.S. YORKTOWN, LEXINGTON, PRINCETON, LANGLEY, ALABAMA, MASSACHUSETTS, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, LOUISVILLE, PORTLAND, INDIANAPOLIS, CANBERRA, SAN JUAN, MAURY, CRAVEN, CASE, MC CALL, GRIDLEY, STANLY, C.F. AUSBURNE, DYSON, CONVERSE, SPENCE, THATCHER, BANCROFT, CALDWELL, EDWARDS, FRAZIER and MEADE. Task Groups 58.3, 50.8, 50.15, 58.1 and 58.2 formed cruising disposition 5-U.

Positions: (0800) 00-32 S; 151-23.3 E.
(1200) 00-22.2 S; 150-28 E.
(2000) 00-10.1 S; 148-36 E.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

Tuesday, 28 March 1944

Steaming as before. . Fueled U.S.S. FRAZIER and U.S.S. EDWARDS alongside during forenoon. At 0856 U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA designated as formation guide. At 1103 U.S.S. YORKTOWN assumed formation guide. Fueled U.S.S. STANLEY alongside during afternoon. At 1323 ComBatPac in U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA was designated to assume tactical command of Task Group 58.3. At 1420 C.T.G. 58.3 in U.S.S. YORKTOWN assumed tactical command and formation guide. At 1445 commenced tactical exercises and made numerous emergency turns. At 1522 formed cruising disposition 5-VN. At 1555 Task Group formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. PRINCETON guide. Force in cruising disposition 5-U.
Positions: (0800) 00-36 N; 145-20.2 E.
(1200) 00-38.1 N; 144-37.4 E.
(2000) 00-49 N; 142-36.1 E.

Wednesday, 29 March 1944

Steaming as before. At 1018 U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA designated formation guide. At 1058 U.S.S. YORKTOWN designated formation guide. 1210 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS designated formation guide. At 1715 U.S.S. LANGLEY fighter plane shot down one Japanese "Betty" bearing 300° true, distance 40 miles from this formation. At 1739 U.S.S. YORKTOWN assumed formation guide. At 1907 formation of approximately five planes approached the formation and were identified as Japanese "Betty's". At 1945 formed cruising disposition 5-VN with screening destroyers on Circle 6. At 2030 lost contact with enemy planes, but they were again contacted by radar at 2041. The planes closed on the formation and commenced attack at 2046. At 2053½ opened fire with starboard 5-inch battery at a group of 2 planes passing along the starboard side bearing 030° true, range 7100 yards. At 2054 one plane on the starboard side seen to burst into flames and crash, having been shot down by ALABAMA 5-inch gunfire. At 2054½ ceased firing; the other plane on the starboard side bore off to the Northwest apparently undamaged. (Details of the above action are covered in U.S.S. ALABAMA Action Report file BB60/A16-3(042) dated 5 April 1944).
Positions: (0800) 02-51.5 N; 139-09.5 E.
(1200) 03-23.2 N; 138-20 E.
(2000) 04-09.6 N; 136-33 E.

Thursday, 30 March 1944

Steaming as before. At 0623 Aircraft Carriers of this force commenced launching aircraft for air strike against enemy naval vessels, shipping, aircraft, and shore installations on the Japanese island of Palau. This air strike continued throughout daylight hours. At 1315 U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS designated as formation guide. At 1357 U.S.S. YORKTOWN designated formation guide. At 1414 formed cruising disposition 5-R. At 1607 U.S.S. CANBERRA assumed formation guide. At 1954 formed cruising disposition 5-VN, U.S.S. YORKTOWN formation guide.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

Thursday, 30 March 1944 (Continued)

At 2043 an estimated six planes appeared on the radar screen bearing 135° true, distance 21 miles, closing on the formation. At 2044 this group of planes split up into separate raids and were identified as Japanese "Betty's". A two plane raid attacked this formation and at 2050½ opened fire on this raid bearing 115° true, 10,000 yards, with the port 5-inch battery. Ceased firing 5-inch battery at 2051½, and opened fire with 40MM battery. Ceased firing 40MM battery at 2052 and opened fire with 20MM battery. At 2053 ceased firing. At 2100 all raids had joined as a single formation and disappeared to the westward. At 2146 a single enemy plane was contacted bearing 130° true, distance 14 miles, approaching on the port quarter. 2151½ opened fire with starboard 5-inch battery on the plane bearing 045° true, 12,000 yards. At 2154 ceased firing. At 2156 the enemy plane disappeared to the northwest apparently undamaged. (Details of the above action are contained in U.S.S. ALABAMA Action Report file BB60/Al6-3(042) dated 5 April 1944).

Positions: (0800) 05-37.8 N; 134-16.2 E.
(1200) 05-49.6 N; 134-32.2 E.
(2000) 05-57 N; 135-20.5 E.

Friday, 31 March 1944

Steaming as before. Task Groups 58.3 and 58.2 within TBS range; Task Group 58.1 having departed for strike on Yap. At 0606 U.S.S. MERTZ (of Task Group 58.2) opened fire on a ship bearing 124° true, 38,000 yards from this formation. At 0609 ship on fire below the horizon. Carrier aircraft continued air strike against Palau. At 1357 catapulted two planes to rescue personnel of planes shot down over Palau. At 1608 formed cruising disposition 5-R. At 1859 recovered both planes, no personnel located. At 2004 formed cruising disposition 5-VN.

Positions: (0800) 07-55.5 N; 136-20 E.
(1200) 08-02 N; 136-22.5 E.
(2000) 07-08.4 N; 137-30 E.

F. D. KIRTLAND,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding

b

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 054

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

Reg. No.	2129
R.S. No.	021870

F-48
#

DECLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

9 May 1944.

From: Commanding Officer.
To : Commander-in-Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: WAR DIARY - Forwarding or.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3 Serial 7152
or October 29, 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for month
of APRIL, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure
(A) is forwarded herewith.

F. D. Kirtland
F. D. KIRTLAND.

Received

Copy to:
CincPac.

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9
of 27 SEP 53
BY 910 DATE 1 APR 1960

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

021870

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF APRIL, 1944

Saturday, 1 April, 1944

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.3 in the vicinity of Palau Islands, in cruising disposition 5-VN, U.S.S. YORKTOWN guide. Task Group 58.2 is within TBS range of this group. Task Group 58.3 consists of U.S.S. YORKTOWN (CTG 58.3), LEXINGTON, PRINCETON, LANGLEY, NORTH CAROLINA, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA, LOUISVILLE, CANBERRA, PORTLAND, INDIANAPOLIS, SAN JUAN, MC CALL, CRAVEN, GRIDLEY, STANLEY, CASE, C.F. AUSBURNE, MAURY, DYSON, CONVERSE, SPENCE, THATCHER, BANCROFT, EDWARDS, FRAZIER, CALDWELL and MEADE. C.T.F. 50, OTC, embarked in U.S.S. NEW JERSEY. This operation designated "Desecrate One". Keeping zone minus 11 time. During forenoon carrier aircraft of this group conducted air strike on Japanese island of Woleai. At 0955 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. YORKTOWN guide. At 1151 manned air attack stations upon report by aircraft of contact with a flight of Japanese medium bombers. Secured from air attack stations at 1223 no further contact having been reported.

Positions: 0800 - 01-26N, 145-28E.
1200 - 00-40N, 146-09E.
2000 - 00-20N, 147-26E.

Sunday, 2 April, 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. STANLEY, SPENCE and THATCHER alongside during afternoon.

Positions: 0800 - 01-26N, 145-28E.
1200 - 00-40N, 146-09E.
2000 - 00-20N, 147-26E.

Monday, 3 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 1154 U.S.S. LANGLEY designated formation guide. Task Groups 58.1, 58.2 and 58.3 joined and formed cruising disposition 5-T. Task Group 58.3 formed cruising disposition 5-R, guide in U.S.S. YORKTOWN.

Positions: 0800 - 00-09.2S, 150-18.8E.
1200 - 00-20.5S, 151-09.5E.
2000 - 00-40.3S, 154-08.5E.

Tuesday, 4 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0845 U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS designated formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 01-17.5S, 155-47.8E.
1200 - 01-22.1S, 156-46.9E.
2000 - 00-20.7S, 158-33.3E.

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WAR DIARY

Wednesday, 5 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 1604 U.S.S. YORKTOWN assumed guide. At 2400 set all ship's clocks back 23 hours to plus 12 zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 01-16.9N, 161-22.3E.
1200 - 01-46.1N, 162-14.2E.
2000 - 02-52.0N, 163-36.5E.

Wednesday, 5 April, 1944

Steaming as before. CTF 50 directed CTGs 58.1, 58.2 and 58.3 to proceed independently to Majuro.

Positions: 0800 - 04-34.7N, 165-57E.
1200 - 05-16.7N, 166-34.5E.
2000 - 06-31N, 167-55E.

Thursday, 6 April, 1944

Steaming as before. Entered Majuro Lagoon during forenoon and anchored in berth 77 at 1333. Received fuel from U.S.S. LACKAWANNA during afternoon and evening. Ships present: numerous battleships, carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and auxiliaries of the Central Pacific Force, SOPA, ComCenPacFor, in U.S.S. NEW JERSEY, SOPA Administration in U.S.S. PRAIRIE.

Positions: 0800 - 07-29.4N, 170-38E.
1200 - 07-17N, 171-10E.

Friday, 7 April, 1944 to
Wednesday, 12 April, 1944

Anchored as before in berth 77, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. During this period ship took on fuel, provisions, and general stores. On 10 April ComCenPacFor shifted flag to U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS, and INDIANAPOLIS stood out. SOPA, ComBatPac, in U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA. Various vessels of the Central Pacific Force stood in and out of the Lagoon.

Thursday, 13 April, 1944

Anchored as before. At 1330, in accordance with CTG 58.3 Sortie Plan, Speedletter Serial 0070 of 11 April, sortied from Majuro in company with Task Force 58, this vessel a unit of Task Group 58.3 Task Force formed cruising disposition 5-T; Task Group formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. LANGLEY guide. Operating in accordance with CTF 58 OpPlan 5-44, and CTG 58.3 OpOrder R-1-44, on operation designated "Desecrate Two". Task Group 58.3 composed of the following ships: U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (C.T.G. 58.3), U.S.S. LEXINGTON (C.T.F. 58), LANGLEY, PRINCETON, NORTH CAROLINA, MASSACHUSETTS, SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, LOUISVILLE, PORTLAND, CANBERRA, C.K. BRONSON, COTTEN, DORTCH, HEALEY,

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

Thursday, 13 April, 1944 (Continued)

GATLING, COGSWELL, CAPERTON, INGERSOLL, KNAPP, C.F. AUSBURNE, A.W. GRANT, DYSON, CONVERSE, SPENSE, and THATCHER. At 1618 U.S.S. LEXINGTON assumed guide and at 1645 U.S.S. ENTERPRISE assumed guide.
Positions: 2000 - 07-08.3N, 169-57.2E.

Friday, 14 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 2100 set clocks back one hour to plus 13 zone time and at 2400 set clocks ahead 24 hours keeping minus 11 zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 05-41.5N, 167-14E.
1200 - 05-10.8N, 166-44.4E.
2000 - 03-56.2N, 165-14.2E.

Sunday, 16 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0804 formed cruising disposition 5-V. Fired 40MM and 20MM batteries at towed sleeve targets during the forenoon. At 1221 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE guide.

Positions: 0800 - 01-48.5N, 162-34.4E.
1200 - 00-49N, 162-16E.
2000 - 00-11.6N, 160-39.8E.

Monday, 17 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0846 formed cruising disposition 5-V. Fired 40MM and 20MM batteries at towed sleeve targets during the forenoon. At 1744 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE guide. At 1830 set clocks back one hour to minus 10 Zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 01-15.5S, 157-50E.
1200 - 01-20.1S, 156-50E.
2000 - 00-46.7S, 156-48.3E.

Tuesday, 18 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 1400 Task Group 50.17 (Fueling Group) joined the formation. At 1648 U.S.S. NEOSHO designated formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 00-10S, 151-40E.
1200 - 00-06.7N, 150-38.3E.
2000 - 00-34.5N, 148-45.2E.

Wednesday, 19 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0612 this group formed fueling disposition 5-F. U.S.S. A.W. GRANT came alongside and delivered guard mail. At 1152 formed cruising disposition 5-L, U.S.S. LANGLEY guide, and at 1540 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE guide.

Positions: 0800 - 00-52.2N, 146-37.8E.
1200 - 00-51.2N, 147-14.2E.
2000 - 01-07.5N, 147-02.5E.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

Thursday, 20 April, 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled Destroyers SPENCE, THATCHER, DYSON, A.W. GRANT, C.F. AUSBURNE, and CONVERSE alongside during forenoon and early afternoon. At 1053 U.S.S. CANBERRA reported sighting submarine periscope. The Task Group was maneuvered on evasive courses and speeds, but no further contact was reported.

Positions: 0800 - 01-18N, 143-54E.
1200 - 01-26.8N, 143-05E.
2000 - 01-56.2N, 140-46.5E.

Friday, 21 April, 1944

Steaming as before. Carrier aircraft were launched and recovered throughout the day, conducting air strike on Japanese installations in the Hollandia, New Guinea area.

Positions: 0800 - 01-30.5S, 140-29.3E.
1200 - 01-39.6S, 140-54E.
2000 - 01-27.5S, 140-53E.

Saturday, 22 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 1105 Battleship Division Nine left the formation to fuel destroyers. Fueled U.S.S. SPENCE, C.F. AUSBURNE, COTTEN, THATCHER, and CONVERSE alongside during afternoon. Battleship Division Nine rejoined formation at 1652. This force is operating in the vicinity of Hollandia, New Guinea, covering landing operations in that area.

Positions: 0800 - 01-16S, 140-32.5E.
1200 - 01-55.3S, 141-03.9E.
2000 - 01-27.3S, 140-45.8E.

Sunday, 23 April, 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 01-41.5S, 140-30.2E.
1200 - 01-50.5S, 140-17.5E.
2000 - 01-23S, 140-21.3E.

Monday, 24 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 1722 formed cruising dispositions 5-V. At 1905 sounded air attack upon report of two unidentified aircraft bearing 110 true, distance 20 miles. At 2135, no further report received, secured from air attack stations, and formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE guide.

Positions: 0800 - 01-30S, 140-27E.
1200 - 00-50.7S, 140-26.2E.
2000 - 00-54.5S, 139-55E.

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Tuesday, 25 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0720 formed fueling disposition 5-F with Task Group 50.15 (Fueling Group). Received fuel and aviation gasoline from U.S.S. CAHABA during forenoon. At 1640 formed cruising disposition 5-R with Task Group 58.3, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE guide.

Positions: 0800 - 00-07.8N, 142-18E.
1200 - 00-46N, 142-20E.
2000 - 01-19N, 141-41E.

Wednesday, 26 April, 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 00-05N, 139-08E.
1200 - 00-38.4N, 139-58E.
2000 - 00-25N, 142-00.9E.

Thursday, 27 April, 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 01-21.3N, 141-30E.
1200 - 02-09.7N, 142-17.5E.
2000 - 01-13.5N, 144-04E.

Friday, 28 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0536 U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS, CONVERSE and THATCHER left the formation. U.S.S. C.K. BRONSON delivered guard mail from alongside at 1135. At 1425 U.S.S. LEXINGTON designated formation guide, and at 2012 U.S.S. ENTERPRISE assumed guide.

Positions: 0800 - 00-10.5N, 146-46.8E.
1200 - 00-55S, 146-44.4E.
2000 - 00-59.2S, 148-52.5E.

Saturday, 29 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0100 set clocks ahead one hour to minus 11 zone time. At 0748 U.S.S. NESHANIC and CAHABA joined formation and NESHANIC designated formation guide. U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA, PRITCHETT, CASSIN YOUNG, THATCHER and CONVERSE joined the formation during the forenoon. U.S.S. INGERSOLL delivered guard mail from alongside during forenoon; U.S.S. CONVERSE, CAPERTON and DORTCH delivered guard mail from alongside during afternoon. At 1415 ENTERPRISE assumed guide, U.S.S. NESHANIC and CAHABA left the formation. At 1700 set clocks back 23 hours to plus 12 zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 00-44N, 148-42E.
1200 - 01-26N, 148-53E.
2000 - 03-10.2N, 149-29.8 E.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

Saturday, 29 April, 1944


Steaming as before. Carrier aircraft were launched and recovered throughout the day, conducting air strike against Japanese base of Truk.

Positions: 0800 - 06-06.2N, 151-04.3E.
1200 - 06-37.0N, 151-38.6E.
2000 - 06-31.0N, 152-33E.

Sunday, 30 April, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0730 U.S.S. CANBERRA, LOUISVILLE, and PORTLAND left the formation. Carrier aircraft were launched and recovered throughout the day, conducting air strike against the Japanese Base of Truk. At 1915 U.S.S. LEXINGTON commenced firing on plane reported by her to be enemy, other ships to port commenced firing at 1916 and ceased firing at 1919.

Positions: 0800 - 05-53.2N, 151-29.9E.
1200 - 06-28.3N, 151-49.8E.
2000 - 06-49.0N, 153-29.5E.


F. D. KIRTLAND,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

Reg. No.	2205
R.S. No.	14 JUN 1944

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 07

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

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4 June, 1944.

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commander-in-Chief, U.S. FLEET.
Subject: WAR DIARY - Forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152
of October 29, 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for month
of MAY, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), enclosure
(A) is forwarded herewith.

F. D. KIRLAND
F. D. KIRLAND

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DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9
of 27 SEP 58
BY 91C DATE 14 APR 1960

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF MAY, 1944

Monday, 1 May, 1944

Steaming in company with Task Force 58, composed of Task Groups 58.1, 58.2 and 58.3. ALABAMA a unit of Task Group 58.3 which consists of the following other ships: U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CTG and OTC), ENTERPRISE, LANGLEY, PRINCETON, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, INDIANA, MASSACHUSETTS, C.K. BRONSON, THATCHER, CONVERSE, DORTCH, HEALY, COGSWELL, CASSIN YOUNG, COTTEN, GATLING, SPENCE, CAPERTON, A.W. GRANT, DYSON, KNAPP, C.F. AUSBURNE, INGERSOLL and FRITCHETT. The Task Force in cruising disposition 5-W; Task Group in cruising disposition 5-R. Keeping zone plus 12 time. At 0824 ComBatPac, embarked in U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA, assumed tactical command of Battleships of the Task Force and formed Task Group 58.7, which left the formation and formed 180° relative to their division guides. At 0955 formed column open order. At 1415 formed Task Unit 58.7.3 consisting of U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA (CTU), ALABAMA, IZARD, BELL, BURNS, CONNER, CHARRETTE, battleships in column, destroyers in anti-submarine screen. At 1445 sounded general quarters for bombardment of Ponape Island. Catapulted two planes to act as spotting planes for the bombardment. At 1533 opened fire with 16" battery, bombarding Ponape. At 1606 opened fire with 5" battery. Continued bombardment with both 16" and 5" batteries until 1649. Recovered both aircraft. At 1816 formed cruising disposition 1-B with Task Group 58.7. Details of bombardment of Ponape are contained in ALABAMA letter BB60/Al6-3, serial 050 of 2 May, 1944.

Positions: 0800 - 06-53.4N, 155-48.6E.
1200 - 07-01.3N, 157-02.2E.
2000 - 07-21.5N, 158-31E.

Tuesday, 2 May, 1944

Steaming as before in company with Task Group 58.7. At 0704 rendezvoused with Task Group 58.1 and formed fueling disposition. Fueled U.S.S. BURNS, IZARD, MC CALL, and GRIDLEY alongside during the forenoon. At 1153 U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA and ALABAMA left the formation and rejoined Task Group 58.3 in formation 5-R.

Positions: 0800 - 06-47N, 161-22E.
1200 - 07-06.8N, 161-56.2E.
2000 - 06-10N, 163-30.8E.

Wednesday, 3 May, 1944

Steaming as before. Fired 5" battery to starboard for standard tests of Mark 32 fuzes during the afternoon.

Positions: 0800 - 05-07.5N, 165-51.6E.
1200 - 05-55.8N, 166-34.1E.
2000 - 06-33.3N, 168-28.3E.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ WAR DIARY

Thursday, 4 May, 1944

Steaming as before. At 0753 commenced maneuvering to enter channel and at 0915 anchored in berth 82, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Friday, 5 May, 1944 to
Sunday, 14 May, 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll. Ships present: battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and numerous other ships of the Central Pacific Force; SOPA in U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA, SOPA (ADMINISTRATIVE) in U.S.S. PRAIRIE. During this period received fuel oil, general stores, provisions, and ammunition. On Tuesday, 9 May, shifted to berth 137 and fired 5" and machine gun batteries at towed sleeve targets, returning to berth 82 upon completion of firing. On Sunday, 14 May, ComBatPac (SOPA) shifted his flag to U.S.S. NEW JERSEY and U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA stood out.

Monday, 15 May, 1944

Anchored as before. At 1025 got underway and stood out of lagoon in company with U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA (OTC), U.S.S. CABOT, PATTERSON, BURNS, BELL, CHARETTE, IZARD, and CONNER. During the afternoon fired main battery practice at target sled towed by U.S.S. DORSEY. Fired 5" battery practice during the evening.
Positions: 1200 - 07-20.9N, 171-06.3E.
2000 - 07-36.8N, 170-05.1E.

Tuesday, 16 May, 1944

Steaming as before. Fired 5" and machine gun batteries at towed sleeve targets during the forenoon. Entered Majuro Atoll Lagoon at 1737 and anchored in berth 82 at 1639.
Positions: 0800 - 07-18N, 170-18E.
1200 - 07-29N, 170-21.6E.

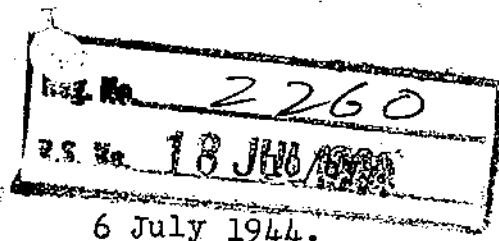
Wednesday, 17 May, 1944 to
Wednesday, 31 May, 1944

Anchored as before in Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. Took on fuel, ammunition, provisions and general stores. On Thursday, 18 May, and Tuesday, 30 May, shifted to Berth 137 and fired 5" and machine gun batteries at towed sleeve targets, returning to berth 82 upon completion of firing. At 1200, Friday, 19 May, set all clocks ahead 23 hours keeping minus 11 zone time. On Tuesday, 30 May, U.S.S. WASHINGTON stood in and ComBatPac (SOPA) shifted his flag from U.S.S. NEW JERSEY to U.S.S. WASHINGTON. During this period various ships of the Central Pacific Force stood in and out of the lagoon.

F. D. Kirtland
F. D. KIRTLAND,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 079

U. S. S. ALABAMA



6 July 1944.

DECLASSIFIED
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From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: WAR DIARY; forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152
of 29 October 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for month of
JUNE, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), Enclosure (A) is
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F. D. Kirtland
F. D. KIRTLAND.

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of 27 SEP 53
BY 91C DATE 1 APR 1960

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF JUNE - 1944

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Thursday, 1 June 1944

Anchored in Berth 82, Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. Ships present: various battleships, carriers, cruisers, destroyers and small craft of the Central Pacific Force, SOPA (ComBatPac) in U.S.S. WASHINGTON. Keeping zone minus 11 time.

Friday, 2 June 1944 to
Sunday, 4 June 1944

Anchored as before.

Monday, 5 June 1944

Anchored as before. Received ammunition aboard from U.S.S. RAINIER during the forenoon. At 1252 went to "air attack stations" upon receipt of report from CTG 58.3 of unidentified aircraft approaching. Secured from "air attack stations" at 1330; no further development of aircraft contact. Again at 1750 sounded "air attack stations" and secured at 1806, no development of reported aircraft contact.

Tuesday, 6 June 1944

Anchored as before. At 0829 underway. Stood out of Lagoon and sortied with Task Group 58.7 in accordance with CTF 58 Sortie Order. Formed cruising disposition with and became a unit of Task Group 58.7 composed of the following vessels: U.S.S. WASHINGTON (OTC - ComBatPac embarked there), INDIANA (Fleet Guide), NORTH CAROLINA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, SOUTH DAKOTA, SANTA FE, MOBILE, BILOXI, BALTIMORE, BOSTON, CANBERRA, SAN DIEGO, RENO, HOUSTON, MIAMI, VIN-CENNES, DesRon 1, DesRon 23 less AULICK, CLAXTON, FOOTE, STANLEY and DesDiv 12 less RALPH TALBOT plus SELFRIDGE and CONYNGHAM. At 1247 fired 20mm and 40mm batteries at towed sleeve targets.

Positions: 0800 - Majuro Atoll
1200 - 07-20.7N, 170-49.5 E
2000 - 07-15 N, 169-55 E.

Wednesday, 7 June 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 07-34 N, 166-58E
1200 - 08-08.5N, 166-06.3 E
2000 - 09-09.0N, 164-21.1 E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

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Thursday, 8 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 1509 commenced maneuvering to form cruising disposition 5-R, and became a unit of Task Group 58.3 consisting of the following ships: U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (OTC embarked therein), LEXINGTON, PRINCETON, SAN JACINTO, WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, INDIANA, SOUTH DAKOTA, DEWEY, ALABAMA, HULL, MAC DONOUGH, DALE, FARRAGUT, AYLWIN, MONOGHAN, C. K. BRONSON, COTTEN, DORTCH, GATLING, HEALY, CAPERTON, COGSWELL, KNAPP, INGERSOLL and HENLEY; plus U.S.S. CALIENTE the formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 10-51.4N, 161-18.6E
1200 - 11-18.4N, 160-21.2E
2000 - 12-58.0N, 160-02.1E

Friday, 9 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 0543 commenced forming cruising disposition 5-F for fueling operations. Fueled U.S.S. COGSWELL, CAPERTON, KNAPP alongside during forenoon. At 1232 formed cruising disposition 5-R, fueling operations completed. At 1520 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS (Com-FifthFleet embarked therein) joined the formation.

Positions: 0800 - 15-08.8N, 159-07.0E
1200 - 15-19.0N, 159-45.1E
2000 - 15-30.8N, 159-09.8E

Saturday, 10 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 0400 set all clocks back one hour to minus 10 zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 14-57.8N, 155-28.6E
1200 - 14-48.5N, 154-19.5E
2000 - 14-14.8N, 152-16.0E

Sunday, 11 June 1944

Steaming as before. Task Groups 58.1, 58.2, 58.3 and 58.4 in cruising disposition 5-X, Task Group 58.3 in cruising disposition 5-R. U.S.S. STANLY formed with Task Group 58.3 Fueled U.S.S. GATLING, HEALY, MONOGHAN alongside during the forenoon. At 0850 this task group left the formation and proceeded independently. During the afternoon carriers of this task group launched aircraft to conduct air strike on SAIPAN, Marianas Islands, recovering aircraft at dusk.

Positions: 0800 - 13-18.1N, 149-37.7E
1200 - 13-34.3N, 148-35.8E
2000 - 14-52.2N, 148-49.2E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

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WAR DIARY

Monday, 12 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 0340 formed cruising disposition 5-V, and sounded "air attack stations" at 0400, enemy aircraft having been reported. Commenced firing 5" battery to starboard at enemy aircraft attacking this formation. At 0411 ceased firing, enemy aircraft retired. At 0533, secured from "air attack stations". Expended 65 5" AA Common projectiles and 65 5" service charges (flashless) during firing. During the forenoon and afternoon maneuvered on various courses at various speeds while aircraft carriers launched aircraft which conducted air strikes against SAIPAN. Planes were recovered at dusk. (Refer to CO, ALABAMA Conf.Ltr.BB60/A16-3, 7/7/44)

Positions: 0800 - 15-26.3N, 146-56.7E
1200 - 15-19.4N, 147-03.0E
2000 - 15-22.1N, 147-26.7E

Tuesday, 13 June 1944

Steaming as before. Task Groups 58.1, 58.2, 58.3 and 58.4 in formation 5-X, Task Group 58.3 in cruising disposition 5-R, steaming in the area of SAIPAN Island, Marianas Islands. At 0615 U.S.S. CASE joined this formation. At 0645 withdrew from Task Group 58.3 and joined Task Group 58.7 consisting of Bat Div 7, IOWA, NEW JERSEY; BatDiv 8, INDIANA, NORTH CAROLINA and WASHINGTON (OTC - ComBatPac embarked therein); BatDiv 9, SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA; DesDiv 1, DEWEY, HULL, MAC DONOUGH, (plus SELFRIDGE); DesDiv 2, FARRAGUT, MONAGHAN, DALE, AYLWIN; and DesDiv 12, MUGFORD, CONYNGHAM, PATTERSON, BAGLEY (less RALPH TALBOT). U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS (ComFifthFleet embarked therein) steaming in company with Task Group 58.7. During afternoon Task Unit 58.7.2 U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA, U.S.S. ALABAMA, with escorts left the formation and proceeded independently to conduct bombardment of SAIPAN. From 1101 bombarded shore installations on the Island of SAIPAN with main and secondary batteries until 1659. Expended 360 rounds of 16"/45 cal. and 1763 rounds of 5"/38 cal. ammunition during bombardment. Task Unit 58.7.2 rejoined Task Group 58.3 at 2142 (detailed report of bombardment in CO, ALABAMA ltr. BB60/A16-3, Serial 076, of 15 June 1944).

Positions: 0800 - 15-47.5N, 145-06.3E
1200 - 15-22.7N, 145-38.5E
2000 - 15-24.6N, 145-23.3E

Wednesday, 14 June 1944

Steaming as before. Task Groups 58.1, 58.2, 58.3 and 58.4 in formation 5-X, Task Group 58.3 in cruising disposition 5-R. At 0105 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS left the formation. Aircraft carriers launched planes throughout the day, conducting air strikes against SAIPAN Island, recovering aircraft at dusk.

Positions: 0800 14-38.6N, 144-39.8E
1200 14-39N, 145-04.2E
2000 15-16.2N, 144-59.6E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

WAR DIARY

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Thursday, 15 June 1944

Steaming as before. Aircraft carriers launched planes throughout the day conducting air strikes against SAIPAN Island in support of landing operations there. At 1824 maneuvered on various courses to form cruising disposition 5-V to repel enemy air attack against this formation. At 1911 port AA battery opened fire and shot down one enemy plane off port quarter. Five enemy planes were observed shot down in flames during this air attack. At 2035 secured from "air attack stations". Expended 35-5" AA Common projectiles and 35-5" service charges, 194 rounds 40mm service and 709 rounds 20mm service ammunition in repelling above attack. At 2052 formed cruising disposition 5-R. (Refer to CO, ALABAMA Conf. Action Report BB60/A16-3, Serial 078, dated 7 July 1944).

Positions: 0800 - 15.4N, 144-40E
1200 - 15-28.3N, 145-01.2E
2000 - 14-29.3N, 145-06.8E

Friday, 16 June 1944

Steaming as before. In company with Task Group 58.3. At 0230 U.S.S. DORTCH was detached from the formation with orders to investigate contact, and at 0250 DORTCH reported contact with two Japanese sampans and destroyed them with gunfire. Carrier aircraft were launched to continue strikes on SAIPAN and GUAM, Marianas Islands. At 1015 left Task Group 58.3 and joined Task Group 58.2 for fueling. Fueled from U.S.S. KASKASKIA, and upon completion rejoined Task Group 58.3 in formation 5-R. Task Group 58.3 now composed of the following ships: U.S.S. LEXINGTON (CTF 58 embarked therein), ENTERPRISE (CTG and OTC embarked therein), SAN JACINTO, PRINCETON, WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH DAKOTA, INDIANA, ALABAMA, DORTCH, HEALY, GATLING, C. K. BRONSON, CAPERTON, KNAPP, INGERSOLL, CASE, and COTTEN.

Positions: 0800 - 14-43N, 144-26E
1200 - 14-35.8N, 145-15.3E
2000 - 14-24.2N, 145-47.6E

Saturday, 17 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 0349 observed gunfire on port quarter, and at 0408 U.S.S. COTTEN reported sinking two Japanese sampans. Carrier aircraft were launched throughout the day to support ground forces on SAIPAN. At 1605 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS (ComFifthFleet embarked therein) joined the formation. At 1715 maneuvered to form cruising disposition 7-R with newly formed Task Group 58.7, which was composed of the following ships: U.S.S. WASHINGTON (TGC and OTC embarked therein), NORTH CAROLINA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, INDIANA, SOUTH DAKOTA, WICHITA, MINNEAPOLIS, NEW ORLEANS, SAN FRANCISCO, MUGFORD, CONYNGHAM, PATTERSON, BAGLEY, SELFRIDGE, HALFORD, GUEST, BENNETT, FULLAM, HUDSON, YARNELL, TWINING, STOCKHAM, and MONSSEN.

Positions: 0800 - 14-37.8N, 143-52.4E
1200 - 14-26.8N, 144-01.2E
2000 - 14-56.3N, 143-53.0E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

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WAR DIARY

Sunday, 18 June 1944

Steaming as before in company with Task Group 58.7. Carrier aircraft were launched throughout the day to support ground forces on SAIPAN.

Positions: 0800 - 15-40.3N, 141-30.0E
1200 - 15-02.1N, 142-42.4E
2000 - 14-22.7N, 140-56.6E

Monday, 19 June 1944

Steaming as before in company with Task Group 58.7. Task Groups 58.1, 58.2, 58.3 and 58.4 in the vicinity. At 0124 changed cruising disposition to 7-V. At 0725 formed cruising disposition 7-N. At 1011 formed cruising disposition 7-V preparatory to repelling enemy air attack. At 1048 commenced firing AA battery to repel enemy air raid on this task group. At 1559 secured from "air attack stations"; enemy air attack successfully repelled. Received report that this group shot down nine of the attacking planes. Ammunition expended during air attack: 428 5" AA Common projectiles, 428 service charges; 1228 rounds 40mm service, and 611 rounds 20mm service. (Refer to CO, ALABAMA Secret Action Report, BB60/A16-3, Serial 0011, dated 8 July 1944).

Positions: 0800 - 14-26.7N, 143-13.6E
1200 - 14-10.7N, 143-26.5E
2000 - 14-00.5N, 144-05.0E

Tuesday, 20 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 0032 formed cruising disposition 5-N. This group steaming in pursuit of fleeing enemy fleet reported to westward. During the evening carrier aircraft of other groups were launched, and made successful attack against enemy fleet. No contact with the enemy force was made by this group.

Positions: 0800 - 13-10.7N, 140-06.0E
1200 - 13-22.4N, 139-02.0E
2000 - 15-15.0N, 137-43.4E

Wednesday, 21 June 1944

Steaming as before. During afternoon fueled U.S.S. HUDSON alongside and received one Japanese prisoner of war from her for further transfer. At 1345 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS (ComFifthFleet embarked therein) joined this Task Group. At 1540 formed cruising disposition 7-S, U.S.S. INDIANA guide.

Positions: 0800 - 15-36.0N, 136-22.2E
1200 - 15-38.8N, 135-43.1E
2000 - 15-56.7N, 133-56.5E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

WAR DIARY

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Thursday, 22 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 1445 U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS left the formation.

Positions: 0800 - 15-36.8N, 137-20.3E
1200 - 15-30.2N, 138-17.0E
2000 - 15-48.4N, 140-06.5E

Friday, 23 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 0940 U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA left the formation to join Task Group 58.2. At 1912 formed cruising disposition 5-N, U.S.S. ALABAMA guide.

Positions: 0800 - 15-06.0N, 142-12.8E
1200 - 14-58.0N, 142-51.0E
2000 - 15-06.0N, 144-15.0E

Saturday, 24 June 1944

Steaming as before. At 1009 fueling group, U.S.S. MANATEE, ENOREE, MONONGAHELA and NEOSHO, joined the formation. Fueled from U.S.S. MONONGAHELA during afternoon and transferred one prisoner of war to her for further transfer. At 1850 detached from Task Group 58.7, formed Task Group 58.3 consisting of U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (CTG and OTC embarked therein), U.S.S. LEXINGTON, PRINCETON, SAN JACINTO, RENO, WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, INDIANA, ALABAMA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY and Destroyer Divisions 2, 3, 99 and 100.

Positions: 0800 - 15-14.9N, 144-52.8E
1200 - 14-45.7N, 144-54.0E
2000 - 15-24.7N, 143-27.0E

Sunday, 25 June 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 15-03.3N, 145-00.2E
1200 - 14-28N, 144-32.0E
2000 - 14-40.3N, 144-14.2E

Monday, 26 June 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 16-32.2N, 144-24.2E
1200 - 17-08.3N, 145-12.0E
2000 - 16-46.7N, 144-32.2E

Tuesday, 27 June 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 14-16N, 142-21E
1200 - 13-25.3N, 143-35.6E
2000 - 13-05.5N, 143-37.3E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

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WAR DIARY

Wednesday, 28 June 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 14-48N, 144-08.5E
1200 - 14-28.8N, 144-27.4E
2000 - 13-34N, 143-32E

Thursday, 29 June 1944

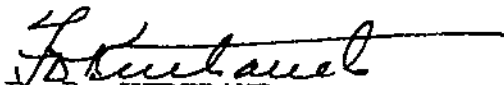
Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 12-11.3N, 145-17.6E
1200 - 12-36.8N, 145-39.2E
2000 - 12-47.2N, 145-28.0E

Friday, 30 June 1944

Steaming as before. During the period through 30 June this task group patrolled the areas around the Marianas to protect landing forces on SAIPAN Island from enemy attack by sea and air. Carrier aircraft of this group conducted strikes on enemy aircraft, shipping, and shore installations on the Islands of GUAM, TINIAN, ROTA and SAIPAN, of the Marianas Group.

Positions: 0800 - 13-16.1N, 145-55.2E
1200 - 12-38.3N, 145-45.0E
2000 - 12-19.0N, 144-38.6E


F. D. KIRTLAND,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Commanding

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 093

U. S. S. ALABAMA

E. No.	2312
R. S. No.	24 AUG 1944
10/he	

4 August 1944.

DECLASSIFIED

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
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F. D. KIRTLAND.

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BY 91C DATE 1 APR 1960

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

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WAR DIARY

MONTH OF JULY - 1944

Saturday, 1 July 1944

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.3, in formation 5-R, U.S.S. ENTERPRISE fleet guide. Task Group 58.3 composed of the following ships: U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (OTC and CTG embarked therein), U.S.S. LEXINGTON, PRINCETON, SAN JACINTO, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, ALABAMA, INDIANA, NORTH CAROLINA, WASHINGTON, RENO, Destroyer Divisions 99 and 100. Operating in the vicinity of the Marianas Islands, supporting landing operations on the Island of Saipan. Keeping zone minus 10 time. At 0035 formed cruising disposition 5-V and maneuvered at various courses and speeds to repel possible air attack and to recover night-fighters from carriers. At 0132 reformed cruising disposition 5-R. At 0910 formed fueling disposition 5-F with Task Group 50.17 and went alongside U.S.S. CALIENTE at 0949. At 1220 cast off from alongside U.S.S. CALIENTE, fueling completed. At 1637 Task Group 58.3 formed cruising disposition 5-R, Task Group 50.17 having left the formation upon completion of fueling of all units of this Task Group.

Positions: 0800 - 14-29N, 146-27.5E
1200 - 14-07.2N, 146-41.1E
2000 - 13-10.0N, 146-06.8E

Sunday, 2 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0003 began maneuvering in accordance with signals from the OTC to be in position to repel enemy air attack and later to recover carrier night fighters. At 0007 one Betty was observed shot down broad on the starboard bow. At 0016 formed cruising disposition 5-R.

Positions: 0800 - 12-34.7N, 143-26E
1200 - 13-21.2N, 143-23E
2000 - 12-46.0N, 143-30.1E

Monday, 3 July 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. INGERSOLL alongside during the forenoon.

Positions: 0800 - 14-11.8N, 143-47E
1200 - 14-09.4N, 143-59E
2000 - 13-20.4N, 143-29.5E

Tuesday, 4 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0715 Desron 12 less FARENHOLT, WOODWORTH and STACK, plus CASE and ELLET joined this formation. At 0800 Destroyer Division 100 left the formation. Fueled U.S.S. CAPERTON alongside during morning watch.

Positions: 0800 - 14-04.7N, 143-43E
1200 - 13-45N, 143-25.5E
2000 - 12-42.8N, 143-12.5E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

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WAR DIARY

Wednesday, 5 July 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. COTTEN alongside during the forenoon.

Positions: 0800 - 14-03.8N, 143-14.2E
1200 - 14-07.3N, 143-37.3E
2000 - 14-28.2N, 144-38E

Thursday, 6 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0830 U.S.S. INDIANA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, WASHINGTON, and DesDiv 99 left Task Group 58.3 to form Task Group 58.7. Task Group 58.3 proceeding enroute Marianas Area to Eniwetok, Marshall Islands.

Positions: 0800 - 15-30.1N, 146-52.0E
1200 - 15-37.0N, 147-38.0E
2000 - 14-05.0N, 148-52.3E

Friday, 7 July 1944

Steaming as before in company with Task Group 58.3 less vessels previously assigned to Task Group 58.7. During the afternoon maneuvered independently and conducted test firing of 5" AA ammunition, 20mm and 40mm batteries. Rejoined the formation upon completion of test firing.

Positions: 0800 - 13-30.2N, 152-09.8E
1200 - 13-18.3N, 153-17.4E
2000 - 12-56.8N, 155-21.0E

Saturday, 8 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0200 changed zone time from minus 10 to minus 11.

Positions: 0800 - 12-26.0N, 158-11.5E
1200 - 12-24.0N, 159-05.0E
2000 - 12-06.0N, 160-06.0E

Sunday, 9 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 1033 formed astern of U.S.S. NORTH CAROLINA, steaming on various courses and speeds proceeding to anchorage at Eniwetok. At 1225 anchored in berths 416-417, Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. At 1303 Rear Admiral E.W. HANSON, USN, Commander Battleship Division NINE, came aboard, accompanied by his staff of 13 officers and 35 enlisted men, and hoisted his flag. Ships present: numerous task groups and task units of the U.S. Pacific Fleet plus various auxiliaries and harbor craft, SOPA ComBatDiv 2 in U.S.S. TENNESSEE, SOPA (Administrative) in U.S.S. PRAIRIE.

Positions: 0800 - 10-58.8N, 162-34.8E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

Monday, 10 July 1944 to
Thursday, 13 July 1944

Anchored as before. During this period received ammunition, fuel, provisions, personnel, and mail.

Friday, 14 July 1944

Anchored as before. At 1434 underway on various courses at various speeds standing out of anchorage. Sortied from harbor in company with Task Group 58.3 less battleships. Task Group 58.3 consists of the following ships: U.S.S. BUNKER HILL (CTG 58.3 embarked therein), LEXINGTON, SAN JACINTO, RENO, and Destroyer Squadron 50. CTG 58 embarked in LEXINGTON. Conducted practice firing of machine gun battery at 1711. At 1800 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. SAN JACINTO guide. Enroute Eniwetok to Marianas area.
Positions: 2000 - 11-00.6N, 162-18.5E

Saturday, 15 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 1400 changed zone time from minus 11 to 10. At 1418 U.S.S. ALABAMA designated formation guide. Task Group 58.4 steaming in the vicinity.
Positions: 0800 - 11-18.0N, 158-52.8E
1200 - 11-26.5N, 157-59.2E
2000 - 11-53.8N, 156-39.7E

Sunday, 16 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0925 U.S.S. BUNKER HILL designated formation guide.
Positions: 0800 - 12-09.7N, 153-09.5E
1200 - 12-25.3N, 152-32.8E
2000 - 12-38.0N, 150-54.7E

Monday, 17 July, 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. COGSWELL, GATLING, HEALY and KNAPP alongside during the forenoon.
Positions: 0800 - 12-35.8N, 147-38.9E
1200 - 12-34.9N, 146-36.2E
2000 - 12-27.4N, 144-53.2E

Tuesday, 18 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0820 Task Group 58.7 consisting of U.S.S. WASHINGTON, INDIANA, NEW JERSEY, IOWA, Desron 12 less STACK, FARENHOLT, WOODWORTH, plus CASE and ELLET, joined the formation.
Positions: 0800 - 12-14.6N, 143-54.2E
1200 - 12-26.7N, 143-51.3E
2000 - 11-57.0N, 144-31E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

Wednesday, 19 July 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. ELLET alongside during forenoon. Destroyers of the Task Group came alongside during the forenoon and afternoon, to receive U.S. Mail and stores for further delivery to battleships in the formation. At 1400 U.S.S. IOWA (ComBatDiv 7, OTC embarked therein), U.S.S. NEW JERSEY, ALABAMA and DesDiv 100 formed Task Unit 58.3.5, left Task Group 58.3 and formed cruising disposition 7-ZH. This Task Unit enroute Saipan Island.

Positions: 0800 - 12-08.ON, 143-38.6E
1200 - 12-09.2N, 144-04.0E
2000 - 13-25.ON, 143-36.2E

Thursday, 20 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0835 anchored in Berth A-37, Saipan Island, Marianas Islands. Ships present: U.S.S. IOWA, NEW JERSEY, Destroyer Division 100, and various other units of the U.S. Central Pacific Force. Transferred stores and heavy material to other battleships present. At 1601 underway and stood out of anchorage in company with Task Unit 58.3.5 composed of U.S.S. IOWA (ComBatDiv 7, OTC), NEW JERSEY, ALABAMA, and DesDiv 100. Formed cruising disposition 7-ZH, enroute to rejoin Task Group 58.3.

Positions: 0800 - 15-16.ON, 145-32E
1200 - Saipan Island
2000 - 14-53.ON, 144-32.6E

Friday, 21 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0634 Task Unit 58.3.5 joined Task Group 58.3 and formed cruising disposition 5-R.

Positions: 0800 - 12-26.6N, 143-22.0E
1200 - 12-15.8N, 143-58.8E
2000 - 12-20.8N, 145-22.8E

Saturday, 22 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 0600 Task Group 50.17 joined the formation and formed cruising disposition 5-F. At 0617 went alongside U.S.S. MANATEE and received fuel oil. Completed fueling at 1005 and cast off from alongside U.S.S. MANATEE. Upon completion of the fueling, Task Group 50.17 left the formation and Task Group 58.3 formed cruising disposition 5-R.

Positions: 0800 - 12-08.8N, 145-24.0E
1200 - 12-16.ON, 145-56.8E
2000 - 11-57.ON, 145-29.8E

U. S. S. ALABAMA(BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

Sunday, 23 July 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 12-29.8N, 144-52.8E
1200 - 12-02.3N, 144-19E
2000 - 12-19.1N, 145-33E

Monday, 24 July 1944

Steaming as before. Task Groups 58.1 and 58.2 steaming in the vicinity, proceeding to Yap-Ulithi-Palau Islands area.

Positions: 0800 - 10-01.0N, 143-45.7E
1200 - 09-26.9N, 143-13.8E
2000 - 07-45.1N, 141-49.7E

Tuesday, 25 July 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. ELLET alongside during the forenoon. At 1400 carriers launched aircraft to conduct air strikes on and photographic reconnaissance of the Japanese Islands of Palau. Aircraft were recovered at sundown.

Positions: 0800 - 06-45.0N, 138-56.9E
1200 - 06-39.0N, 138-13.8E
2000 - 07-08.3N, 136-45.8E

Wednesday, 26 July 1944

Steaming as before. Carrier aircraft were launched during the forenoon, continuing the air strikes on Palau. At 0825, U.S.S. WASHINGTON (OTC, ComBatPac embarked therein), INDIANA, ALABAMA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, and DesDiv 4 left Task Group 58.3 and formed Task Group 58.7, maneuvering according to signals from the OTC. At 1904 formed cruising disposition 7-L.

Positions: 0800 - 06-28.5N, 135-49.8E
1200 - 06-36.8N, 135-25.2E
2000 - 06-44.8N, 135-14.0E

Thursday, 27 July 1944

Steaming as before. At 1700 formed cruising disposition 5-R with Task Group 58.3, guide in U.S.S. BUNKER HILL (CTG 58.3 embarked therein), LEXINGTON (CTF 58 embarked therein), SAN JACINTO, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, WASHINGTON, INDIANA, RENO, DesDiv 4, DesDiv 100 and DesDiv 99.

Positions: 0800 - 06-49N, 135-27E
1200 - 06-42N, 135-24.2E
2000 - 06-22.6N, 135-13.8E

U. S. S. ALABAMA(BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

Friday, 28 July 1944

Steaming as before. Fueled U.S.S. HEALY, BRONSON, COGSWELL, and ELLET alongside during the forenoon.

Positions: 0800 - 06-28N, 138-24E
1200 - 06-28.3N, 139-01.3E
2000 - 07-12.1N, 140-53.2E

Saturday, 29 July 1944

Steaming as before. Enroute from Palau Island Area to Marianas Islands Area.

Positions: 0800 - 09-19.5N, 142-30.0E
1200 - 10-27.0N, 142-37.1E
2000 - 12-23.8N, 142-57.2E

Sunday, 30 July 1944

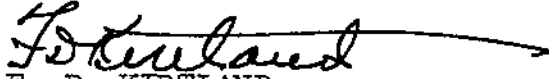
Steaming as before. Task Groups 58.1 and 58.2 steaming in the vicinity. At 0538 U.S.S. INDIANA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, ALABAMA, and DesDiv 4 plus ELLET, INGERSOLL and KNAPP, left Task Group 58.3 and proceeded independently to join Task Group 58.4. During the afternoon fueled from U.S.S. MASCOMA, and upon completion of fueling joined Task Group 58.4, which was composed of the following vessels upon completion of joining: U.S.S. ESSEX (CTG embarked therein), LANGLEY, ALABAMA, INDIANA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, SAN DIEGO, and Desron 52. Formed cruising disposition 5-R, guide in ESSEX. This group supporting ground forces on the island of Guam.

Positions: 0800 - 14-40.7N, 144-07E
1200 - 14-50N, 144-46.6E
2000 - 14-03N, 145-56E

Monday, 31 July 1944

Steaming as before. Carrier aircraft were launched during the forenoon to conduct air strikes on Japanese positions on Guam. At 1004 formed cruising disposition 5-V and steamed on various courses and at various speeds while carrier aircraft conducted simulated air attack. At 1100 formed cruising disposition 5-R.

Positions: 0800 - 13-10N, 145-47E
1200 - 13-01N, 145-53.8E
2000 - 13-28N, 146-16.4E


F. D. KIRTLAND,
Captain, U. S. Navy,
Commanding.

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 0107

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Reg. No. 2443
10/he

4 September 1944.

DECLASSIFIED

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: WAR DIARY; forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152
of 29 October 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for the month
of AUGUST, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), Enclosure (A)
is forwarded herewith.

V. R. Murphy
V. R. MURPHY.

Copy to:
CinCPac

Received

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9
of 27 SEP 53
BY 910 DATE 1 APR 1960

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

WAR DIARY

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MONTH OF AUGUST - 1944

Tuesday, 1 August 1944

Steaming in company with Task Group 58.4 in cruising disposition 5-R, Guide in U.S.S. ESSEX. Task Group 58.4 is composed of the following ships: U.S.S. ESSEX (Task Group Commander, OTC embarked therein), LANGLEY, ALABAMA, INDIANA, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, SAN DIEGO, and DesRon 52. This group is supporting ground forces on the island of Guam. Using zone minus 10 time. At 1604 U.S.S. HUNT came alongside and delivered guard mail.

Positions: 0800 - 12-47.7N, 146-02.0E
1200 - 13-02.0N, 145-41.2E
2000 - 12-39.3N, 145-45.3E

Wednesday, 2 August 1944

Steaming as before. During the forenoon, conducted practice firing of machine gun battery at towed sleeve targets. At 1203 U.S.S. NEW JERSEY, HICKOX, HUNT, and LEWIS HANCOCK left the formation on assigned mission. U.S.S. OWEN came alongside during the afternoon and delivered U.S. Mail. At 1804 U.S.S. MORRISON and BELLEAU WOOD joined the formation.

Positions: 0800 - 13-17.6N, 145-47.8E
1200 - 12-41.0N, 145-58.0E
2000 - 13-03.4N, 146-26.2E

Thursday, 3 August 1944

Steaming as before. During the afternoon maneuvered on various courses at various speeds during carrier flight operations for air strikes against enemy positions on Guam.

Positions: 0800 - 13-46.8N, 145-40.0E
1200 - 13-39.6N, 145-47.2E
2000 - 12-26.6N, 146-03.3E

Friday, 4 August 1944

Steaming as before. At 0750 U.S.S. MARSHALL came alongside and cast off at 0905 after receiving fuel oil. During afternoon fired 20mm and 40mm batteries at towed sleeve targets.

Positions: 0800 - 13-38.0N, 145-57.0E
1200 - 14-10.0N, 146-18.4E
2000 - 13-40.8N, 146-17.7E

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

Saturday, 5 August 1944

Steaming as before. Maneuvered on various courses at various speeds during the day for carrier flight operations for air strikes against enemy positions on Guam.

Positions: 0800 - 13-32.5N, 145-53.7E
1200 - 13-30.8N, 145-56.2E
2000 - 13-36.0N, 146-07.8E

Sunday, 6 August 1944

Steaming as before. During the forenoon the fueling group, Task Group 50.17 joined the formation. At 1022 left Task Group 58.4 and maneuvered to take station in Task Group 58.7 composed of the following ships: U.S.S. WASHINGTON (ComBatPac and CTG embarked therein), ALABAMA, INDIANA, IOWA, BIRMINGHAM, SANTA FE, MOBILE, VINCENTNES, HOUSTON, MIAMI, THE SULLIVANS, MARSHALL, MILLER, OWENS, STEPHEN POTTER, TINGEY, COGSWELL, INGERSOLL, COTTER, KNAPP, C.K. BRONSON, DORTCH, HEALY, and GATLING. Task Group 58.7 holding gunnery and tactical exercises enroute to Eniwetok. U.S.S. MILLER came alongside during the forenoon and delivered guard mail.

Positions: 0800 - 14-02.0N, 145-54.0E
1200 - 14-35.8N, 145-58.7E
2000 - 16-02.2N, 146-57.0E

Monday, 7 August 1944

Steaming as before. At 1350 U.S.S. KNAPP came alongside and transferred six Japanese prisoners of war to this ship.

Positions: 0800 - 16-33.7N, 147-02.3E
1200 - 15-53.2N, 147-12.2E
2000 - 15-47.7N, 149-02.3E

Tuesday, 8 August 1944

Steaming as before. During the forenoon fired main battery for test firing.

Positions: 0800 - 15-48.0N, 152-14.0E
1200 - 15-41.8N, 152-41.7E
2000 - 15-59.4N, 152-42.5E

Wednesday, 9 August 1944

Steaming as before. At 0000 changed zone time to minus 11. During the forenoon, YAMAMOTO, Shoichi, petty officer, one of the six Japanese prisoners of war died of wounds received prior to receipt on board, and was buried at sea with appropriate ceremony. At 1300 Task Group 58.7 divided into two units, Task Unit 58.7.2 composed of BatDiv 9, CruDiv 13 and DesDiv 50 less COTTEN. Task Units opening to conduct simulated engagement.

Positions: 0800 - 15-35.0N, 155-14.9E
1200 - 15-12.0N, 156-14.6E
2000 - 14-05.0N, 157-45.0E

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

WAR DIARY

Thursday, 10 August 1944

Steaming as before. During forenoon Task Units 58.7.2 and 58.7.1 conducted simulated engagement, and upon completion joined and formed Task Group 58.7, composed of the following ships: U.S.S. WASHINGTON (ComBatFac, CTG and OTC embarked therein), IOWA, INDIANA, ALABAMA, MOBILE, SANTA FE, BIRMINGHAM, MIAMI, VINCENNES, HOUSTON, and DesDiv 99, 100, and 103.

Positions: 0800 - 13-25.2N, 160-31.2E
1200 - 14-06.4N, 161-15.6E
2000 - 13-28.9N, 163-09.8E

Friday, 11 August 1944

Steaming as before. During forenoon Task Group 58.7 anchored at Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. Ships present: numerous battleships, carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and auxiliary craft of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, SOPA (Administrative) in U.S.S. PRAIRIE.

Positions: 0800 - 11-34.8N, 162-46.0E

Saturday, 12 August 1944
to

Sunday, 20 August 1944

Anchored as before. On 16 August transferred the five remaining Japanese prisoners of war to U.S.S. CAMBRIA. On 19 August received "Red Alert" at 2225 and went to air attack stations. Attack did not develop. Secured from air attack stations at 2251.

Monday, 21 August 1944

Anchored as before. At 0825 underway. Shifted to AA firing berth for AA practice. During forenoon and afternoon fired 5", 20mm and 40mm batteries at towed sleeve targets. At 1502 underway, returned to anchorage in berth 435.

Tuesday, 22 August 1944
to

Sunday, 27 August 1944

Anchored as before. On 23 August 1944, Captain Vincent R. Murphy, USN, relieved Captain Fred D. Kirtland, USN, as Commanding Officer.

Monday, 28 August 1944
to

Tuesday, 29 August 1944

Anchored as before. At 0752 underway. Shifted to AA firing berth. Fired 5", 20mm and 40mm batteries at towed sleeve target. At 1500 underway, returned to anchorage in berth 435. During this period in port various ships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet stood in and out of the anchorage. ALABAMA conducted routine training exercises, and received fuel, ammunition, mail, and stores.

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U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

WAR DIARY

Wednesday, 30 August 1944


Anchored as before at Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands. At 0620 Task Force 34 commenced sortie from harbor. At 0652 underway, and sortied from harbor in company with Task Force 34 which consisted of the following ships: U.S.S. ALABAMA, INDIANA, MASSACHUSETTS, IOWA, WASHINGTON, and DesRon 50; Task Force Commander in WASHINGTON. During afternoon fired 5", 20mm and 40mm batteries at towed sleeve targets. At 1800 CruDiv 13 less BILOXI, CruDiv 14 less VICKSBURG and DesRon 52 less HICKOX, HUNT, and LEWIS HANCOCK joined the formation. Formed cruising disposition 4-S, U.S.S. INDIANA guide.

Positions: 1200 - 10-40.0N, 162-35.9E
2000 - 08-32.0N, 163-06.6E

Thursday, 31 August 1944

Steaming as before in company with Task Force 34. During afternoon fired main battery offset practice.

Positions: 0800 - 05-18.8N, 163-53.2E
1200 - 04-32.0N, 164-13.7E
2000 - 03-31.0N, 163-58.9E


V. R. MURPHY,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial: 0118

U. S. S. ALABAMA (BB60)

Reg. No. 2527

R. S. P.

10/he

3 October 1944.

DECLASSIFIED

From: The Commanding Officer.
To: The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: WAR DIARY; forwarding of.

Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152
of 29 October 1943.

Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for the
month of SEPTEMBER, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), Enclosure (A)
is forwarded herewith.

V. R. Murphy
V. R. MURPHY.

Copy to:
CinCPAC

Recorded - 10/11

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9

of 27 SEP 53

BY 91C DATE 1 Dec 1960

90781

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER - 1944

Friday, 1 September 1944

Steaming in company with Task Force 34, on operation designed to result in the capture, occupation and development of the Japanese-held islands of Palau, Ulithi, and Yap. Task Force 34 is composed of the following ships: WASHINGTON (ComBatPac, Task Force Commander), IOWA, MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA, ALABAMA, VINCENNES, HOUSTON, MIAMI, SANTA FE, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, OWEN, MILLER, THE SULLIVANS, STEPHEN POTTER, TINGEY, MARSHALL, CLARENCE K. BRONSON, COTTEN, DORTCH, GATLING, HEALY, COGSWELL, CAPERTON, INGERSOLL, KNAPP. Steaming in cruising disposition 4-N, U.S.S. IOWA guide. Keeping zone Minus 11 time. At 2400-changed to Minus 10 zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 02-44.8N, 161-13.5E
1200 - 02-36.6N, 160-18.8E
2000 - 01-36.0N, 158-37.8E

Saturday, 2 September 1944

Steaming as before. During morning watch conducted surface engagement drill with other units of the Task Force. At 1510 formed cruising disposition 4-S, U.S.S. INDIANA guide. At 2400 changed to Minus 9 zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 00-23.3N, 155-30.8E
1200 - 00-26.9N, 154-27.8E
2000 - 00-24.2N, 152-17.0E

Sunday, 3 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0510 SANTA FE, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, VINCENNES, HOUSTON, MIAMI, OWEN, MILLER, THE SULLIVANS, STEPHEN POTTER, and TINGEY left the formation. At 0645 joined the Fueling Group (Task Unit 30.8.1), battleships of Task Force 34 forming in line astern of the fueling group. At 0800 changed to Minus 10 zone time. At 1120 U.S.S. CASSIN YOUNG came alongside and delivered U.S. Mail. At 1337 Task Group 38.5 was formed with the following ships: U.S.S. WASHINGTON (ComBatPac, Task Group Commander), IOWA (ComBatDiv 7, OTC), MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA, ALABAMA, CLARENCE K. BRONSON, COTTEN, DORTCH, GATLING, and HEALY. Formed cruising disposition 4-S, U.S.S. INDIANA guide. At 2400 changed to Minus 9 zone time.

Positions: 0800 - 01-18.5N, 150-53.0E
1200 - 01-00.0N, 151-00.0E
2000 - 00-07.3N, 152-31.5E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DIARY

Monday, 4 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 1714 U.S.S. IOWA designated formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 00-11.1S, 150-57.0E
1200 - 00-03.2S, 150-00.0E
2000 - 00-21.2N, 148-23.6E

Tuesday, 5 September 1944

Steaming as before. During forenoon and afternoon fired machine gun battery at towed sleeve targets.

Positions: 0800 - 01-15.9N, 145-28.0E
1200 - 02-00.0N, 145-00.0E
2000 - 02-00.0N, 143-39.0E

Wednesday, 6 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0535 formed cruising disposition 4-N. At 0605 U.S.S. NEW JERSEY (ComThirdFleet embarked therein); HUNT, HICKOX, and LEWIS HANCOCK joined the formation; ComThirdFleet in U.S.S. NEW JERSEY assumed tactical command of Task Group 38.5. At 0910 formed cruising disposition 4-VD, U.S.S. INDIANA guide; ComBatDiv 8 in INDIANA assumed tactical command of Task Group 38.5. During forenoon fired 20mm battery at towed sleeve targets. At 1105 formed cruising disposition 4-SD, U.S.S. INDIANA guide. From 1300 to 1535 steamed on various courses at various speeds while conducting tactical maneuvers. At 1535 formed cruising disposition 4-S. ComBatPac in WASHINGTON assumed tactical command of the Task Group. At 1607 U.S.S. COTTEN came alongside and delivered U.S. Mail. Fueled U.S.S. GATLING alongside during late afternoon.

Positions: 0800 - 02-03.0N, 139-36.0E
1200 - 02-09.2N, 139-10.8E
2000 - 02-12.8N, 137-32.0E

Thursday, 7 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0805 commenced tactical maneuvers, ComBatDiv 9 in ALABAMA in tactical command. At 1118 resumed station in disposition. During afternoon fired 5" battery at towed sleeve targets. At 1544 formed cruising disposition 4-S, U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS guide.

Positions: 0800 - 03-48.7N, 134-58.0E
1200 - 04-00.2N, 134-36.5E
2000 - 03-13.6N, 135-18.8E

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

Friday, 8 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 1145 formed cruising disposition 4-N, U.S.S. INDIANA guide. During afternoon fired 40mm and 20mm batteries at towed sleeve targets. At 1532 formed cruising disposition 4-S, U.S.S. INDIANA guide. At 2015 formed cruising disposition 4-N.

Positions: 0800 - 04-18.8N, 135-29.2E
1200 - 13-45.6N, 135-48.3E
2000 - 02-57.0N, 135-17.5E

Saturday, 9 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0720 U.S.S. ALABAMA designated formation guide. Fueled U.S.S. COTTEN alongside during forenoon. At 0905 commenced tactical maneuvers, steaming at various speeds and on various courses. 1300 to 1530 steamed on various courses carrying out exercise for calibration of the ship's radars and range finders. At 1540 formed cruising disposition 4-S.

Positions: 0800 - 04-04.0N, 135-16.0E
1200 - 04-43.0N, 135-10.0E
2000 - 03-53.8N, 135-00.5E

Sunday, 10 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0632 Fueling Unit (Task Unit 30.8.1) joined the formation and formed fueling disposition 4-F. At 0723 went alongside U.S.S. CIMARRON and cast off at 1028 fueling completed. At 1050 U.S.S. LEWIS HANCOCK came alongside and delivered officer-messenger mail. At 1146 formed cruising disposition 4-S, U.S.S. INDIANA guide. At 1325 U.S.S. LEWIS HANCOCK came alongside and delivered officer-messenger mail. Conducted tactical maneuvers during the afternoon.

Positions: 0800 - 05-23.2N, 134-18.0E
1200 - 05-07.7N, 133-43.0E
2000 - 04-52.8N, 134-15.1E

Monday, 11 September 1944

Steaming as before. During forenoon rendezvoused with Task Groups 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3. At 1200 Task Group 38.5 was dissolved. Joined Task Group 38.3 which consisted of the following ships: U.S.S. ESSEX (Task Group Commander), LEXINGTON (CTF 38), LANGLEY, PRINCETON, WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA, ALABAMA, SANTA FE, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, RENO, CLARENCE K. BRONSON, COTTEN, DORTCH, GATLING, HEALY, COGSWELL, CAPERTON, INGERSOLL, KNAPP, PORTERFIELD, CALLAGAN, CASSIN YOUNG, IRWIN, PRESTON, LAWS, LONGSHAW, MORRISON, FRITCHETT, LEWIS HANCOCK, HICKOX, and HUNT. At 1640 Task Group 38.3 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. ESSEX formation guide. Task Groups 38.1, 38.2, and 38.3 steaming in cruising disposition 5-X. Enroute to Philippine Islands area to conduct air strikes in that vicinity.

Positions: 0800 - 06-33.0N, 132-16.7E
1200 - 07-12.8N, 131-37.4E
2000 - 08-34.0N, 130-20.0E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

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WAR DIARY

Tuesday, 12 September 1944

Steaming as before. Maneuvered on various courses and speeds throughout the day for launching and recovering carrier aircraft. Planes from carriers of the three Task Groups conducted air strikes against Japanese aircraft, shipping, and shore installations on the Philippine Islands of CEBU, LEYTE, BOHOL and NEGROS. At 1126 sighted MINDANAO Island bearing 220° true. At 1554 U.S.S. CASSIN YOUNG came alongside starboard quarter and delivered guard mail.

Positions: 0800 - 10-58.3N, 127-18.7E
1200 - 10-47.0N, 126-32.8E
2000 - 11-18.0N, 127-02.0E

Wednesday, 13 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0657 one previously undetected fast Japanese aircraft identified as an "OSCAR" made a dive bombing run on the formation breaking from low heavy cloud cover and passing ahead of the ALABAMA from starboard to port. This plane dropped a bomb astern of the LANGLEY on our port hand, leveled off at a low altitude and ran away at high speed through AA fire from ships on the far side of the formation. This plane was shot down by AA from ships there. ALABAMA did not open fire. At 0735 ALABAMA lookouts reported an enemy plane bearing 050° true, distance 8 miles. It is believed this plane was shot down by C.A.P. Maneuvered on various courses and speeds throughout the day for launching and recovering carrier aircraft which conducted air strikes against Japanese aircraft, shipping and shore installations on the Philippine Islands of CEBU, LEYTE, BOHOL and NEGROS. At 1446 U.S.S. PRESTON came alongside and delivered officer-messenger mail.

Positions: 0800 - 10-44.0N, 126-56.6E
1200 - 10-35.2N, 126-48.0E
2000 - 10-35.6N, 126-48.1E

Thursday, 14 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0915 sighted Dinagat Island, Philippine Islands. Maneuvered on various courses at various speeds throughout the day for launching and recovering carrier aircraft which conducted air strikes against Japanese aircraft, shipping and shore installations on the Philippine Islands of CEBU, LEYTE, BOHOL and NEGROS. During late afternoon departed from the Philippine Islands Area enroute to fueling area.

Positions: 0800 - 10-54.0N, 126-41.0E
1200 - 10-31.0N, 126-41.0E
2000 - 09-40.0N, 127-17.4E

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

Friday, 15 September 1944

Steaming as before. Enroute to fueling area. At 0854 Commander Third Fleet in U.S.S. NEW JERSEY assumed tactical command of the formation. At 0913 aircraft carriers with escorts left the formation, formed Task Force 34 composed of U.S.S. WASHINGTON (CTF 34 embarked therein), ALABAMA, INDIANA, MASSACHUSETTS, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, SANTA FE, MOBILE, BIRMINGHAM, VINCENNES, HOUSTON, MIAMI, C.K. BRONSON, COTTEN, DORTCH, GATLING, HEALY, COGSWELL, CAFERTON, INGERSOLL, KNAPP, OWEN, MILLER, THE SULLIVANS, STEPHEN POTTER, TINGEY, HICKOX, HUNT, LEWIS HANCOCK, and MARSHALL. Formed cruising disposition 4-N, U.S.S. INDIANA guide. During afternoon conducted battle maneuvers. At 1653 upon joining aircraft carriers, Task Force 34 was dissolved, and Task Group 38.3 was reformed. Task Group 38.3 consisted of the same ships as previously assigned to this Task Group. Formed cruising disposition 4-N, U.S.S. ESSEX formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 08-15N, 130-27.5E
1200 - 07-54N, 131-18.8E
2000 - 07-00N, 132-23.2E

Saturday, 16 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0710 fueling group (Task Group 30.8) joined the formation; formed cruising disposition 1-F, U.S.S. NECHES guide. Ships of Task Group 38.3 commenced fueling from the tankers. At 0810 went alongside U.S.S. TAPPAHANNOCK and commenced receiving fuel. Completed taking fuel at 1015. At 1519 U.S.S. LONGSHAW came alongside and delivered officer-messenger mail. At 1545 the fueling group departed and Task Group 38.3 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. PRINCETON guide. At 1627 U.S.S. GATLING came alongside and delivered U.S. Mail.

Positions: 0800 - 05-40.0N, 134-15.3E
1200 - 05-17.8N, 133-33.6E
2000 - 05-13.4N, 132-44.4E

Sunday, 17 September 1944

Steaming as before. Enroute from fueling area to Northern Philippines Area. At 1452 U.S.S. LEXINGTON designated formation guide. During afternoon U.S.S. INDIANA and DORTCH left the formation and proceeded independently.

Positions: 0800 - 07-36.9N, 132-49.8E
1200 - 07-39.8N, 133-25.2E
2000 - 07-11.4N, 133-11.5E

Monday, 18 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 1531 U.S.S. ESSEX assumed formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 07-26.8N, 133-06.4E
1200 - 07-30.0N, 133-25.8E
2000 - 09-35.0N, 133-32.0E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

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WAR DIARY

Tuesday, 19 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0630 Fueling Unit (Task Unit 30.8.11) joined the formation; formed fueling disposition 1-F. At 0931 U.S.S. CALLAGHAN came alongside and delivered officer-messenger mail. At 1243 went alongside U.S.S. TAPPAHANNOCK and received fuel oil. Completed fueling at 1358 and cast off from alongside TAPPAHANNOCK. At 1556 fueling unit departed. Formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. ESSEX guide. Proceeding enroute northern Philippines area.

Positions: 0800 - 11-51.0N, 133-32.4E
 1200 - 11-32.0N, 132-50.0E
 2000 - 10-52.5N, 131-27.1E

Wednesday, 20 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 1143 U.S.S. IRWIN came alongside for 40MM machine gun spare parts. At 1833 U.S.S. CLARENCE K. BRONSON came alongside and delivered a hospital case.

Positions: 0800 - 14-10.0N, 130-01.2E
 1200 - 14-10.0N, 128-50.2E
 2000 - 14-24.8N, 126-10.8E

Thursday, 21 September 1944

Steaming as before. Task Groups 38.1 and 38.2 steaming in the immediate vicinity. At dawn carriers launched aircraft which conducted air strikes against Japanese installations, aircraft, and shipping in the Manila Bay Area, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Carrier aircraft conducted strikes throughout the day. Steamed on various courses at various speeds throughout the day during launching and recovery of aircraft by carriers. Upon recovery of last strike, the task groups retired from the immediate vicinity of Luzon Island.

Positions: 0800 - 15-40.3N, 123-14.8E
 1200 - 15-52.5N, 123-27.5E
 2000 - 16-22.7N, 123-22.0E

Friday, 22 September 1944

Steaming as before. Numerous unidentified aircraft contacts were reported during the period 0500 to 0900. Went to Air Attack stations at 0531 and 0740. These aircraft were fired upon by several ships and fighters in this formation, but did not close range on ALABAMA sufficiently to warrant opening fire. Carriers of Task Groups 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3 launched and recovered aircraft throughout the day continuing strikes against Japanese aircraft, shore installations and shipping in the Manila Bay Area. The Task Groups retired from the vicinity upon recovering the last strike.

Positions: 0800 - 15-57.5N, 123-05.0E
 1200 - 15-39.0N, 123-05.5E
 2000 - 14-39.0N, 125-07.2E

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WAR DIARY

Saturday, 23 September 1944

Steaming as before, in company with Task Group 38.3, Task Groups 38.1 and 38.2 steaming in the vicinity. Enroute Northern Philippines Area to Fueling Area. At 1030 rendezvoused with Fueling Unit (Task Unit 30.8.16) and formed cruising disposition 5-R modified with U.S.S. PATUXENT formation guide. At 1446 went alongside port side of U.S.S. PATUXENT. Received fuel oil and cast off from alongside PATUXENT at 1616. At 1600 U.S.S. C.K. BRONSON came alongside and delivered U.S. Mail. At 2000 formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. ESSEX guide; Fueling Unit left the formation. Enroute to Central Philippines Area to continue air strikes.

Positions: 0800 - 12-09.2N, 129-14.2E
1200 - 11-21.0N, 130-18.2E
2000 - 11-33.8N, 128-40.6E

Sunday, 24 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0630 U.S.S. LEXINGTON was designated formation guide. At 0708 U.S.S. CASSIN YOUNG came alongside, received fuel and cast off at 0806. At 0837 U.S.S. ESSEX designated formation guide. Maneuvered on various courses at various speeds throughout the day. Carrier aircraft of Task Groups 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3 conducted air strikes against Japanese shipping, aircraft and shore installations in the Central Philippine Islands. At 1429 U.S.S. COGSWELL came alongside and delivered an enlisted man for further medical treatment. At 1915 U.S.S. WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, CLARENCE K. BRONSON, COTTEN, and GATLING were detached from Task Group 38.3 and joined Task Group 38.2, which consisted of the following ships: U.S.S. BUNKER HILL (Task Group Commander and OTC embarked therein), INTREPID, CABOT, INDEPENDENCE, IOWA, NEW JERSEY, VINCENNES, HOUSTON, MIAMI, SAN DIEGO, OAKLAND, DesRons 52 and 53, DesDivs 104 and 106. Formed cruising disposition 5-R, U.S.S. NEW JERSEY guide.

Positions: 0800 - 12-56.6N, 126-02.3E
1200 - 12-48.4N, 125-55.0E
2000 - 12-29.6N, 126-41.2E

Monday, 25 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0800 formed Task Force 34 consisting of the following ships: U.S.S. WASHINGTON (Task Force Commander and OTC embarked therein), IOWA, NEW JERSEY (ComThirdFleet embarked therein), MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, VINCENNES, HOUSTON, MIAMI, C.K. BRONSON, COTTEN, GATLING, THE SULLIVANS, HICKOX, HUNT, and MARSHALL. Ships of Task Force 34 joined Task Group 38.2, enroute from Central Philippines Area to Saipan, Marianas Islands. During afternoon fired 5", 40mm and 20mm batteries at towed sleeve targets. At 1646 U.S.S. THE SULLIVANS came alongside and received fuel, casting off at 1740.

Positions: 0800 - 13-25.2N, 130-38.7E
1200 - 13-33.9N, 131-48.3E
2000 - 13-36.8N, 133-55.2E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

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WAR DIARY

Tuesday, 26 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0736 ships of Task Force 34 reformed and operated independently of Task Group 38.2. During forenoon fired 5" battery at towed sleeve targets. During afternoon conducted tactical exercises, OTC, Commander Battleship Division NINE, in ALABAMA. At 1548 ceased exercises, and Commander Battleships Pacific Fleet in WASHINGTON assumed tactical command of the Task Force. At 1600 U.S.S. INDEPENDENCE joined Task Force 34. At 1620 U.S.S. OWEN came alongside and received fuel oil, casting off at 1710.

Positions: 0800 - 13-52.3N, 137-16.6E
1200 - 14-22.0N, 138-14.4E
2000 - 14-40.3N, 139-24.0E

Wednesday, 27 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0600 rendezvoused with fueling unit. At 0914 went alongside U.S.S. NANTAHALA. Received fuel oil and cast off at 1145. During afternoon fired 40 and 20mm batteries at towed sleeve targets and conducted tactical exercises.

Positions: 0800 - 14-23.3N, 141-35.0E
1200 - 14-25.6N, 142-20.0E
2000 - 15-04.5N, 143-42.1E

Thursday, 28 September 1944

Steaming as before. At 0518 commenced maneuvering on various courses and speeds, entering harbor. At 0625 anchored in berth K-109, Saipan, Marianas Islands. Ships present: U.S.S. NEW JERSEY (ComThirdFleet, SOPA), IOWA, WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, INTREPID, CABOT, BUNKER HILL, INDEPENDENCE, VINCENNES, HOUSTON, MIAMI, SAN DIEGO, OAKLAND, and various destroyers and auxiliary craft of the Pacific Fleet.

Friday, 29 September 1944

Anchored as before. At 1040 Vice Admiral Lee (ComBatPac) assumed temporary operational control of the Third Fleet and transferred from U.S.S. WASHINGTON to U.S.S. NEW JERSEY. During afternoon received 5"/38 ammunition from LCI 967 which came alongside. At 1649 underway with Task Force 34, consisting of U.S.S. NEW JERSEY (ComBatPac, OTC, embarked therein), WASHINGTON, IOWA, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, VINCENNES, INDEPENDENCE, HOUSTON, MIAMI, DesDivs 99, 103 and 104; formed cruising disposition 4-S, U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS guide. Task Group 38.2 steaming in vicinity. Enroute from Saipan, Marianas Islands to Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands.

Positions: 2000 - 15-24.1N, 144-55.7E

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

Saturday, 30 September 1944

Steaming as before. During morning watch planes from carriers conducted simulated air attack on this force. During forenoon and afternoon conducted tactical exercises.

Positions: 0800 - 13-34.0N, 142-44.0E
1200 - 12-58.2N, 141-58.3E
2000 - 11-57.4N, 140-59.3E


V. R. MURPHY,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

BB60/A9-4/A12
Serial:

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Reg. No. 2620
R. S. No. 10/cy

7 November 1944.

0134
DECLASSIFIED

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: WAR DIARY; forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152
of 29 October 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for the
month of OCTOBER, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), Enclosure (A)
is forwarded herewith.

Copy to:
CinCPAC

V. R. Murphy
V. R. MURPHY.

Recorded

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF OCTOBER - 1944

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Sunday, 1 October 1944

Steaming in company with Task Force Thirty-Four, enroute Saipan, Marianas Islands, to Ulithi, Western Caroline Islands. Task Force Thirty-Four composed of the following ships: U.S.S. NEW JERSEY (ComBatPac, OTC, with operational control of the THIRD Fleet embarked therein), WASHINGTON, IOWA, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, VINCENNES, INDEPENDENCE, HOUSTON, and MIAMI, and DesDivs 99, 103 and 104. In cruising disposition 4-S, MASSACHUSETTS guide. Steaming in condition of readiness III, keeping Zone minus 9 time. Task Group 38.2 is steaming in the vicinity. During the morning watch Task Force 34 and Task Group 38.2 entered the lagoon at Ulithi Atoll. Anchored in Berth 21, Ulithi, at 0707. Ships present: NEW JERSEY (SOPA), DIXIE (SOPA ADMINISTRATIVE), and various battleships carriers, cruisers, destroyers and auxiliary craft of the U. S. Pacific Fleet.

Monday, 2 October 1944.

Anchored as before. At 0718 received Aldeberan alongside to port and commenced provisioning. At 0738 received a report that YMS 385 had been sunk on 1 October, while engaged in minesweeping operations, by a mine in Zowryiyu Channel. During the forenoon fueled GATLING alongside to starboard. At 1055 sounded Air Attack Stations and secured at 1100, the contact having proved itself friendly. At 1258 ALDEBERAN cast off, provisioning of ship completed. During afternoon fueled COTTEN alongside to starboard. At 1355 CIMARRON came alongside and we commenced receiving fuel from her. At 1647 CIMARRON cast off, fueling completed. During late afternoon and evening, the wind velocity increased to approximately 30 knots, and waters in the lagoon became very rough. At 1751 veered the anchor chain from 75 to 90 fathoms.

Tuesday, 3 October 1944.

Anchored as before. At 0753, underway in accordance with orders from Commander THIRD Fleet. Task Force 34 and Task Group 38.2 underway and stood out of the lagoon. Sortied with Task Force 34 consisting of U.S.S. WASHINGTON (ComBatPac, OTC), MASSACHUSETTS, NEW JERSEY (ComThirdFleet embarked therein), IOWA, SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, VINCENNES, MIAMI, HOUSTON, DesRon 52 and DesDiv 99. At 0955 formed cruising disposition 4-S, MASSACHUSETTS guide. Steaming in the vicinity of Ulithi Atoll, riding out the storm. During late afternoon the wind velocity decreased to approximately 15 knots.

Positions: 0800 - Ulithi Atoll
1200 - 09-00.0N, 140-00E
2000 - 09-46.9N, 141-23.8E

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Wednesday, 4 October 1944.

Steaming as before. At 0830 commenced steaming on various courses at various speeds entering the lagoon at Ulithi Atoll, and at 0946 anchored in Berth 16. Task Force 34 and Task Group 38.2 present, plus various auxiliaries and small craft.

Thursday, 5 October 1944.

Anchored as before. At 0850 Rear Admiral E. W. Hanson, U.S. Navy, Commander Battleship Division Nine, transferred his flag and personnel to the U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA. At 1104 U.S.S. MARSHALL came alongside and exchanged 5"/38 cal. AA special projectiles. Various ships stood in and out of the lagoon. During this stay in port, set condition of readiness III in the anti-aircraft batteries during the periods of dawn and dusk each day.

Friday, 6 October 1944.

Anchored as before. Tactical organization as prescribed in ComFirstCarTaskForPac Operation Order No. 11-44 in effect. At 1527 Task Group 38.2 got underway. At 1653 underway. Sortied from harbor in company with Task Group 38.3 which consisted of the following ships: LEXINGTON (CTF 38 embarked therein), ESSEX (CTG 38.3 and OTC embarked therein), PRINCETON, LANGLEY, WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA, SANTA FE, MOBILE, DesRon 50 and DesRon 55 (less DORTCH and HEALY). Formed cruising disposition 5-R, guide in ESSEX. Executing an operation designed for the conduct of air strikes against the Japanese in the Nansei Shoto, Formosa, Luzon and Visayas Areas to prepare for and support amphibious operations in the Central Philippines. Enroute from Ulithi to the Nansei Shoto-Formosa Area.
Positions: 2000 - 10-00N, 139-00E

Saturday, 7 October 1944.

Steaming as before. At 1452 WOODWORTH and BROWN left this formation to join Task Group 38.1. Joined Task Groups 38.1, 38.2, and 38.4, to form Task Force 38. At 1540 BIRMINGHAM and RENO joined this formation.

Positions: 0800 - 13-00.0N, 138-00.0E
1200 - 13-45.2N, 138-20.0E
2000 - 16-00.0N, 138-00.0E

Sunday, 8 October 1944.

Steaming as before. At 0530 rendezvoused with Task Group 30.8, the fueling group, and formed fueling disposition with them. During the forenoon fueled MORRISON and COTTEN alongside. At 1520 C.K. BRONSON came alongside and transferred an enlisted man for medical treatment.

U. S. S. ALABAMA

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Sunday, 8 October 1944 (continued)

At 1620 FRITCHETT came alongside and delivered U.S. Mail. At 1725 went alongside CACHE and received fuel, casting off at 1948. At 2000 Task Group 30.8 left the formation. Task Group 38.3 formed cruising disposition 5-R, guide in ESSEX.

Positions: 0800 - 18-21.3N, 138-41.9E
1200 - 18-15.0N, 138-09.3E
2000 - 18-01.8N, 136-48.0E

Monday, 9 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0849 MORRISON came alongside and delivered guard mail. At 1030 LEXINGTON designated formation guide.

Positions: 0800 - 19-55.3N, 134-52.3E
1200 - 21-00.4N, 134-57.5E
2000 - 22-25.3N, 132-36.5E

Tuesday, 10 October 1944

Steaming as before. During the forenoon carrier aircraft of Task Force 38 commenced scheduled air strikes against Japanese aircraft, shipping, and shore installations on Okinawa Jima and Kumi Shima in the Nansei Shoto. At 1000 MOBILE, GATLING and COTTEN were temporarily detached with orders to attack and destroy two Japanese freighters which were reported in the area. Air strikes continued throughout the day. At 1435 MORRISON came alongside and delivered guard mail. After recovery of the last strike, the Task Force commenced retirement from the Okinawa Jima Area.

Positions: 0800 - 24-30.0N, 129-00.3E
1200 - 25-01.0N, 129-33.0E
2000 - 24-27.3N, 129-22.4E

Wednesday, 11 October 1944.

Steaming as before. Fueled CAPERTON and CASSIN YOUNG alongside during the forenoon. At 0737 rendezvoused with the Fueling Group, Task Group 30.8, and formed cruising disposition 5-R (modified for fueling), guide in GUADALUPE. At 1219 went alongside GUADALUPE, received fuel, and cast off at 1440. At 1626 COGSWELL came alongside to port and delivered U.S. Mail. Upon completion of fueling Task Group 30.8 left the formation, Task Group 38.3 formed cruising disposition 5-R, ESSEX guide. Task Force 38 commenced run in for air strikes at dawn on Formosa and Pescadores Islands.

Positions: 0800 - 19-56.0N, 127-55.3E
1200 - 19-48.1N, 127-05.4E
2000 - 19-53.2N, 125-14.8E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Thursday, 12 October 1944

Steaming as before. At dawn, aircraft carriers of the Task Force launched aircraft to conduct strikes on enemy aircraft, shipping, and ground installations on the islands of Formosa and Pescadores. These strikes continued throughout the day. At 1858 went to Air Attack Stations, and secured at 2145. Went to Air Attack Stations again at 2209. Attacking Japanese planes did not close to launch an attack against this Task Group. The combat air patrol intercepted and broke up the attacking raids. No attack was conducted against this group. However, AA fire was observed in the vicinity of Task Group 38.2, which apparently received the full attention of the attacking aircraft.

Positions: 0800 - 22-32.0N, 122-30.0E
1200 - 22-44.0N, 122-54.8E
2000 - 22-50.8N, 123-02.1E

Friday, 13 October 1944

Steaming as before. At Air Attack Stations to repel air attack by enemy planes. At 0000 planes commenced making attack on this Task Group. At 0012 starboard AA battery took a single enemy plane under fire. Ceased firing at 0013, plane having turned and retired. At 0017 opened fire on another single plane and commenced making smoke on orders of the Task Group Commander. Ceased firing at 0018, plane having retired out of range. At 0115 secured from Air Attack Stations. At 0159 and 0330 opened fire for 30 seconds at enemy planes passing near this group. Carrier aircraft continued air strikes against the Japanese in Formosa and the Pescadores. At 1707 formed cruising disposition 5-V and went to Air Attack Stations at 1830 to repel enemy air attack. At 1840, 1911 and 1958 opened fire at enemy planes attacking this group. Received message by TBS that CANBERRA had been damaged in this attack. At 2027 secured from Air Attack Stations. Cruiser Division 13 and destroyers of Destroyer Division 100 were detached to provide additional escort for damaged CANBERRA which was being towed from the area. No damage was suffered by ALABAMA from any of these attacks. Ammunition expended during this action: 269 5"/38 cal. AA special projectiles and 269 5"/38 cal. flashless powder charges.

Positions: 0800 - 22-46.8N, 122-33.5E
1200 - 22-56.4N, 122-19.8E
2000 - 22-33.8N, 123-04.0E

Saturday, 14 October 1944

Steaming as before. During the forenoon fueled PRESTON, IRWIN, LAWS and PORTERFIELD alongside. Remaining in the vicinity of Formosa [island] to continue strikes and to protect retiring force of damaged ships from further attacks. During the forenoon Task Group 38.4 was detached to conduct strikes in the Luzon Area. At 1508 went to Air Attack Stations to repel enemy air attack. At 1515 opened fire on enemy

U. S. S. ALABAMA

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Saturday, 14 October 1944 (continued)

planes attacking the formation. Formation of attacking planes was broken up by our fighters, but one "JUDY" succeeded in making dive bombing run on ESSEX. No hits were observed. Fired intermittently from 1710 to 1745 at numerous "KATES" and "JILLS" attacking the formation. This vessel shot down 3 of the attacking planes and damaged a 4th. During this attack OLSON, G. H., Slc, was struck by waves and washed over the side. He was later rescued by the destroyer MORRISON. Secured from Air Attack Stations at 1918. Went to Air Attack Stations again at 2315 and secured at 2332, when aircraft contact failed to close. Ammunition expended in this action: 202 5"/38 cal., 1050 20MM and 555 40MM. (For details of the actions on 12, 13 and 14 October, see ALABAMA Action Report BB60/Al6-3 0133 dated October 3, 1944.

Positions: 0800 - 22-57.3N, 123-06.4E
1200 - 23-18.2N, 123-29.5E
2000 - 22-16.1N, 125-10.9E

Sunday, 15 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0915 rendezvoused with Task Group 30.8, the Fueling Group. At 1032 formed cruising disposition 5-R (modified for fueling) with the Fueling Group, PECOS guide. At 1330 went alongside TOMAHAWK, received fuel, and cast off at 1614. At 1657 LONGSHAW came alongside to receive mail, and CALLAGHAN came alongside to deliver mail. At 1845 the Fueling Group left the formation. The Task Group formed cruising disposition 5-R, LEXINGTON guide. At 2036 changed course to northward to attempt to develop contact with enemy carrier force and to protect our group of damaged ships from attack.

Positions: 0800 - 18-44.1N, 128-12.0E
1200 - 18-05.3N, 128-54.0E
2000 - 18-40.0N, 130-00.0E

Monday, 16 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 1045 MORRISON came alongside and delivered OLSON, G. H., Slc, the man who had been washed over the side on the night of the 14th. At 1740 formed cruising disposition 5-V, ESSEX guide.

Positions: 0800 - 22-12.6N, 127-57.8E
1200 - 22-21.0N, 127-53.3E
2000 - 22-23.0N, 128-13.8E

Tuesday, 17 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0624 formed cruising disposition 5-R, ESSEX guide. Fueled MORRISON and PORTERFIELD alongside during the forenoon. At 1320 the Task Group, upon completion of fueling destroyers steamed enroute from the Formosa Area to the Philippines Area to prepare for and support landing operations on the island of Leyte.

Positions: 0800 - 21-01.5N, 126-56.7E
1200 - 21-17.7N, 127-14.2E
2000 - 20-05.7N, 128-02.6E

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

Wednesday, 18 October 1944

Steaming as before enroute to Central Philippines Area. At 0630 rendezvoused with Task Group 30.8, the Fueling Group. Formed cruising disposition 5-R (modified for fueling), SCHUYLKILL guide. At 0837 went alongside SCHUYLKILL, received fuel oil and cast off at 1010. At 1215 Task Group 30.8 left the formation. Formed cruising disposition 5-R, ESSEX guide. Cruiser Division 13 and Destroyer Division 100 re-joined the formation.

Positions: 0800 - 18-04.0N, 128-49.0E
1200 - 18-02.3N, 129-26.0E
2000 - 17-32.0N, 128-20.0E

Thursday, 19 October 1944

Steaming as before, enroute Central Philippines Area.

Positions: 0800 - 16-52.2N, 127-10.0E
1200 - 17-15.2N, 126-32.1E
2000 - 16-48.4N, 127-04.7E

Friday, 20 October 1944

Steaming as before.

Positions: 0800 - 16-34.1N, 127-11.4E
1200 - 15-15.6N, 126-50.0E
2000 - 15-08.7N, 126-21.2E

Saturday, 21 October 1944

Steaming as before. Carrier aircraft conducted air strikes against Japanese aircraft and ground installations in the Visayas Area, Philippine Islands, in support of ground operations on Leyte. Upon recovery of the last strike, the Task Group retired eastward to the fueling area.

Positions: 0800 - 14-30.0N, 129-56.8E
1200 - 14-17.9N, 130-26.6E
2000 - 14-03.1N, 129-55.0E

Sunday, 22 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0531 rendezvoused with Task Group 30.8, the Fueling Group, and formed cruising disposition 5-R (modified for fueling), TOMAHAWK guide. At 0824 went alongside PECOS, received fuel and cast off at 0955. Upon completion of fueling the Task Group formed cruising disposition 5-R, guide in ESSEX. The IRWIN came alongside during the forenoon and delivered U.S. Mail. Commenced receiving numerous reports of contact with heavy units of the Japanese Fleet in and around the Central Philippines.

Positions: 0800 - 14-30.0N, 129-56.8E
1200 - 14-17.9N, 130-26.6E
2000 - 14-03.1N, 129-55.0E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Monday, 23 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0607 WASHINGTON, ALABAMA and DesDiv 100 were detached from Task Group 38.3, and proceeded to join Task Group 38.4, to proceed to ULITHI. At 0750 joined Task Group 38.4 in cruising disposition 5-R, FRANKLIN guide. Task Group 38.4 composed of the following ships: FRANKLIN (Task Group Commander and OTC embarked therein), ENTERPRISE, BELLEAU WOOD, SAN JACINTO, WASHINGTON, ALABAMA, WICHITA, NEW ORLEANS, Des Ron 6 and DesDiv 24 (less GRAYSON) and DesDiv 100. At 1200 received orders to proceed to area off Surigao Strait. Changed course, proceeding to the designated area. During afternoon KNAPP came alongside and delivered guard mail.

Positions: 0800 - 13-32.3N, 130-30.8E
1200 - 13-08.5N, 131-06.1E
2000 - 12-29.5N, 129-08.6E

Tuesday, 24 October 1944

Steaming as before. Arrived Surigao Strait area about dawn. Conducted search of Mindanao Sea area and launched air strikes against enemy forces detected there. At 1430 received orders from Commander THIRD Fleet to attack an enemy force in approximate position 18°N, 125°E. Changed course and proceeded to that area.

Positions: 0800 - 11-19.4N, 126-11.0E
1200 - 11-43.8N, 126-43.8E
2000 - 13-04.5N, 125-42.8E

Wednesday, 25 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0435 joined Task Force 34, which consisted of the following ships: WASHINGTON (CTF 34 and OTC embarked therein), NEW JERSEY, IOWA, MASSACHUSETTS, SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, WICHITA, NEW ORLEANS, VINCENNES, MIAMI, BILOXI, MOBILE, SANTA FE, DesRon 50 and DesRon 52 (less STEPHEN POTTER, plus PATTERSON and BAGLEY). At 0520 sounded General Quarters for dawn alert and for impending surface action. Enemy forces reported within 50 miles of this formation. Before the formation was able to close the enemy force, received orders to leave this area and proceed to area off San Bernardino Strait to assist our CVE Group of Task Force 77, who were being attacked by enemy heavy surface forces in that area. At 1143 secured from General Quarters, no contact having been made with the enemy force. At 1145 Task Force 34 was dissolved. ALABAMA was assigned to Task Group 38.2 which consisted of the following ships: INTREPID (CTG 38.2 and OTC embarked therein), HANCOCK, CABOT, INDEPENDENCE, WASHINGTON, ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA, MASSACHUSETTS, and DesRon 53 (less BENHAM). Task Group 34.5 was formed, and consisted of NEW JERSEY, IOWA, MIAMI, BILOXI, VINCENNES, and DesRon 52. Task Group 34.5 left the area with orders to destroy enemy cripples attempting to enter San Bernardino Strait. At 1620 Task Group 38.2 formed cruising disposition 5-V, INTREPID guide, enroute to San Bernardino Strait area. During the afternoon fueled TWINING and LEWIS HANCOCK alongside. =

U. S. S. ALABAMA

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Wednesday, 25 October 1944 (continued)

Positions: 0800 - 16-55.0N, 126-56.8E
1200 - 17-51.0N, 126-05.0E
2000 - 15-21.9N, 126-09-2E

Thursday, 26 October 1944

Steaming as before off San Bernardino Strait area. Enemy forces which attacked our CVE group now reported to have entered San Bernardino Strait during the night. This vessel made no contact with the enemy forces. Carrier aircraft conducted strikes and searches over the Visayas Area throughout the day.

Positions: - 0800 - 13-57.0N, 126-31.5E
1200 - 13-54.2N, 126-09.8E
2000 - 12-58.7N, 126-18.5E

Friday, 27 October 1944

Steaming as before off Central Philippines Area. Carrier aircraft conducted fighter and search sweeps over the Central Philippines Area for strikes on enemy ground and naval forces. At 0650 rendezvoused with Task Group 30.8, the Fueling Group. At 0710 went alongside SEBEC, received fuel oil and cast off at 1000. At 1347 OWEN came alongside and delivered mail, and at 1720 HUNT came alongside and received mail.

Positions: 0800 - 13-08.3N, 129-10.8E
1200 - 12-48.0N, 129-51.2E
2000 - 12-47.6N, 129-40.8E

Saturday, 28 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0600 rendezvoused with Task Group 38.3, and at 0653 WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS and ALABAMA were detached from Task Group 38.2 and reported to Task Group 38.3 for duty. Formed cruising disposition 5-R, ESSEX guide. Task Group 38.3 consisted of the following ships: ESSEX (CTG 38.3 and OTC embarked therein), LEXINGTON, LANGLEY, WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, SANTA FE, MOBILE, RENO, DesRon 50 (less GATLING), DesRon 55 (less FRITCHETT, MORRISON, and IRWIN). Task Group 38.3 enroute to Ulithi Atoll, Western Carolines.

Positions: 0800 - 13-26.6N, 128-50.0E
1200 - 13-25.0N, 129-39.6E
2000 - 12-55.0N, 131-58.3E

Sunday, 29 October 1944

Steaming as before enroute to Ulithi. During the forenoon conducted test firing of port 5-inch battery.

Positions: 0800 - 11-47.9N, 135-11.9E
1200 - 11-24.9N, 136-08.8E
2000 - 10-41.1N, 137-37.0E

U. S. S. ALABAMA

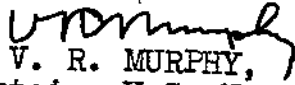
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Monday, 30 October 1944

Steaming as before. At 0809 steamed on various courses at various speeds, entered Ulithi Lagoon and anchored in Berth No. 4. Various battleships, carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and auxiliaries of the U.S. Pacific Fleet were present. SOPA (Administrative) in PRAIRIE. At 1500 NANTAHALA came alongside to deliver fuel oil. At 2335 SS PLYMOUTH VICTORY came alongside to starboard to deliver ammunition.

Tuesday, 31 October 1944.

Moored as before in Ulithi Atoll. At 0636 NANTAHALA cast off from alongside. At 0932 SS PLYMOUTH VICTORY cast off. At 1023 CHELEB came alongside to deliver stores. During this stay in port set condition III in the AA battery during the periods of dawn and dusk each day.


V. R. MURPHY,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

BB60/A9-4/A12

U. S. S. ALABAMA

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7 December 1944.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.
Subject: WAR DIARY; forwarding of.
Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FFL/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152
of 29 October 1943.
Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for the
month of NOVEMBER, 1944.
1. In compliance with reference (a), Enclosure (A)
is forwarded herewith.

Copy to:
CinCPAC

V. R. Murphy
V. R. MURPHY.

Received

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9

of 27 SEP 58

BY 910 DATE 1 APR 1960

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U. S. S. ALABAMA

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WAR DIARY

0193

MONTH OF NOVEMBER - 1944

Wednesday, 1 November 1944

Anchored in berth 4, ULITHI Atoll, Western Caroline Islands. Various units of the U.S. Third Fleet, auxiliaries and small craft present, with various units of Task Force 38 standing in and out of the lagoon during the day. SOPA in DIXIE. Zone -9 time being kept. As directed by ALPAC No. 262 of 1944, ALABAMA was detached from duty with Battleship Division NINE and reported for duty to Commander Battleship Division EIGHT (Rear Admiral G.B. Davis, USN, MASSACHUSETTS, Flagship) in the reassignment of fast battleships. Later the same day, Commander Battleship Division EIGHT with the ships of his division (ALABAMA and MASSACHUSETTS, less INDIANA) reported for duty by despatch to Commander Task Group 38.1, a part of Task Force 38 in the organization of the Third Fleet (Admiral W.F. Halsey, USN, NEW JERSEY, Flagship).

Vice Admiral J.S. McCain, USN, (Commander SECOND Carrier Task Force Pacific, WASP, Flagship) relinquished command of Task Group 38.1 to Rear Admiral A.E. Montgomery, USN, (Commander Carrier Division THREE, HORNET, Flagship) and assumed command of Task Force 38, relieving Vice Admiral M.A. Mitscher, USN, (Commander FIRST Carrier Task Force, Pacific, LEXINGTON, Flagship).

During the late evening, upon orders from CTF 38, CBD 8 ordered ships under his tactical command to prepare to get underway.

Thursday, 2 November 1944

At 0200, ALABAMA sortied in company with MASSACHUSETTS and TICONDEROGA. LAWS, PRITCHETT, COTTEN and LONGSHAW joined at entrance to form screen. Under tactical command of CBD 8 this group proceeded in cruising disposition 5-R-D toward a rendezvous with Task Group 38.3. Aircraft from TICONDEROGA maintained SNASP and CAP throughout the day. About 2335 contact with Task Group 38.3 was made.

Positions: 0800 - 10-12.7N, 128-36.1E
1200 - 10-40.8N, 137-58.8E
2000 - 10-26.0N, 135-14.3E

Friday, 3 November 1944

Ordered by CBD 8 to proceed independently, ships of the group joined Task Group 38.3 (Rear Admiral F.C. Sherman, USN, Commander Carrier Division ONE, ESSEX, Flagship). ALABAMA took station 4270 in cruising disposition 5-R, axis 120. ESSEX guide at 2090, OTC embarked. Ships present: ESSEX, LEXINGTON, TICONDEROGA, LANGLEY, WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, RENO, MOBILE, SANTA FE, COTTEN, LAWS, PRITCHETT, LONGSHAW, PRESTON, PORTERFIELD,

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CASSIN YOUNG, CALLAGHAN, KNAPP, CAPERTON, COGSWELL, INGERSOLL, DORTCH, HEALY, C.K. BRONSON, and GATLING.

ALABAMA proceeded in company to fueling rendezvous. Commencing at 0600, the Task Group fueled from tankers, ALABAMA fueling from CALIENTE. Upon completion Task Group 38.3 proceeded to a rendezvous with other groups of Task Force 38, and at 1700 took station #4 (24240) in Force cruising disposition 5-X, axis 070, with Task Group 38.1 at center, and 38.2 at station #5 (24120). The Task Force proceeded toward 15N, 123E to conduct sustained air strikes against enemy aircraft, aircraft facilities and installations in the LUZON-BICOL area in support of the occupation of LEYTE ISLAND.

About 2327 RENO reported by TBS that she had been hit by a torpedo or a mine. At this time Task Group 38.3 was in cruising disposition 5-R, axis 090, zigzagging on base course 330°, speed 15, ESSEX guide at 2090, ALABAMA at 4270, RENO at 4210. The group commenced radical maneuvers by emergency turns. No contact or further attacks developed.

RENO fell out of formation, and reported loss of steering control, 11° port list, and power on one engine. Escorted by COGSWELL, CAPERTON and KNAPP of DesDiv 100, RENO proceeded to ULITHI. Remaining heavy ships equalized circle spacing, and the Task Group proceeded.

Positions: 0800 - 11-51.0N, 134-07.3E
1200 - 12-29.0N, 133-28.4E
2000 - 13-12.3N, 135-54.7E

Saturday, 4 November 1944

About 1100, ALABAMA with MASSACHUSETTS, PRESTON and CASSIN YOUNG were ordered to join Task Group 38.1 (Rear Admiral A.E. Montgomery, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, HORNET, Flagship). ALABAMA took station 4060, in cruising disposition 5-R, axis 070. Comprising this task group were: WASP (CTF 38 embarked) HORNET (CTG 38.1 embarked), COWPENS, MONTEREY, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, LOUISVILLE, OAKLAND, BOSTON, PORTLAND, DesRon 61 less COLLETT and S.N. MOORE (DE HAVEN, MANSFIELD, MADDOX, L.K. SWENSON, BLUE, BRUSH, TAUSSIG) and DesRon 46 less BRADFORD (IZARD, BURNS, CHARETTE, CONNER, BOYD, O'BRIEN, BELL). At 1200, Task Force 38 less Task Group 38.4 began high speed run in to the launching point.

Positions: 0800 - 15-36.3N, 130-22.6E
1200 - 16-04.7N, 133-39.8E
2000 - 16-52.8N, 127-47.9E

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Sunday, 5 November 1944.

Upon arrival at 15-30N, 123-15E at dawn, air strikes were launched against Japanese aircraft and aircraft facilities on northern LUZON and in the MANILA area. Destruction of enemy aircraft was to be the primary objective as ordered by Commander Third Fleet. Enemy carriers and shipping rated priorities in that order.

At 1351, upon the approach of enemy aircraft, the Task Force went to Air Attack Stations. Task Group 38.1 had formed cruising disposition 5-V, axis 070°T. The Task Force was in cruising disposition 5-X, axis 070°T. Task Group 38.1 at center, 38.3 at 24240 and 38.2 at 24120. This group maneuvered by turn signals to maintain enemy air groups astern. While no attacks were delivered against this group, Task Group 38.3 was reported under attack. At 1400, LEXINGTON reported that a plane had crashed into her superstructure, demolishing radar antennae and causing casualties among gunnery and signal bridge personnel. Her battle efficiency was not otherwise impaired. CAP either destroyed or drove off remaining enemy planes. While no further attacks were experienced, radar contacts were made on strange aircraft throughout the remainder of the day. These are thought to have been enemy search planes. Consequently, the Task Force remained in condition of readiness for action 1E throughout the night and proceeded on various courses to remain in the vicinity for the continuation of air strikes by "heckler" planes during the night and by fighter-bomber attacks on the following day. During the night radar contacts were made on enemy "snoopers" and planes of our own force reported surface contacts thought to be enemy submarines known to be in the vicinity.

Positions: 0800 - 15-53.0N, 123-15.3E
1200 - 15-49.4N, 123-42.3E
2000 - 15-09.3N, 124-33.5E

Monday, 6 November 1944

Strikes were continued during the day. About 0915 enemy aircraft attempted to attack Task Group 38.3. CAP destroyed or drove off all attacking planes. No further attacks were experienced by the Force. At 1830 the Force began withdrawal toward 14-35N, 129-10E for rendezvous with the fueling group.

Positions: 0800 - 15-54.3N, 123-53.8E
1200 - 16-08.8N, 124-31.3E
2000 - 16-48.0N, 125-58.5E

Tuesday, 7 November 1944

At 0700, Task Force formed cruising disposition 3-W, axis 070°, with Task Group 38.1 at center, 38.2 at 20090, and 38.3 at 20270. During the forenoon, heavy ships topped off destroyers, ALABAMA fueling TAUSSIG and L.K. SWENSON. In the afternoon heavy ships fueled from tankers, ALABAMA fueled from CALIENTE, complet-

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ing at 1800. At 1400, MONTEREY and OAKLAND were detached and reported to Task Group 38.4 which joined at this time. WASP, LOUISVILLE, BOYD and BROWN were detached and proceeded with Task Group 38.2 toward ULITHI. YORKTOWN, S.N. MOORE, COLLETT and COWELL reported to CTG 38.1 for duty. Upon departure of WASP, with CTF 38 embarked, Rear Admiral F.C. Sherman, USN, CTG 38.3, assumed tactical command of Task Force 38. Upon completion of fueling at 1800, Task Group 38.1 was formed in cruising disposition 5-R, axis 070°, guide in COWPENS at center, CTG 38.1 in HORNET. ALABAMA took station at 4090 and proceeded in company to remain in the vicinity of 15N, 130E, awaiting further orders. During the later afternoon the weather began to worsen. A sea was running and high winds were experienced.

Positions: 0800 - 15-02.3N, 128-36.8E
1200 - 14-38.0N, 129-17.0E
2000 - 15-03.0N, 130-09.5E

Wednesday, 8 November 1944.

With the Task Force experiencing heavy weather, course was set to the northeast to clear path of an approaching typhoon.

Positions: 0800 - 15-03.9N, 131-59.0E
1200 - 15-42.5N, 132-11.2E
2000 - 16-39.4N, 133-42.1E

Thursday, 9 November 1944

The weather having moderated during the night, about 0830 Commander Task Group 38.1 shifted his flag to YORKTOWN, and YORKTOWN and HORNET exchanged stations in the disposition. Commander Task Unit 38.1.2 (Rear Admiral G.B. Davis, Commander Battle-ship Division EIGHT, MASSACHUSETTS, Flagship) assumed tactical command of the Task Group during the shift of flag. At 1311 the Task Group maneuvered evasively to avoid a submarine contact reported by the screen. No contact was developed, and the Force proceeded toward 14-30N, 129-10E for rendezvous with a fueling group.

Positions: 0800 - 17-21.7N, 136-43.2E
1200 - 17-30.3N, 137-46.0E
2000 - 17-15.9N, 139-48.0E

Friday, 10 November 1944

At 0145 orders for fueling during forenoon were cancelled and the Task Group proceeded at maximum speed, in accordance with instructions from Commander Third Fleet, toward 11N, 127E to launch air strikes against an enemy surface force reported by land based air reconnaissance planes. At 0600, WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA, with TG 38.3, reported that they were unable

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to remain in the disposition. They were assigned escorts and ordered to join when able or to proceed independently to the rendezvous. At 1500, when it became apparent that the previously reported contact was either false or could not be substantiated, Commander Third Fleet ordered the Task Force to proceed to 13-30N, 126-30E and to conduct searches of the VISAYAN area, launching air strikes against any enemy forces detected there.

Positions: 0800 - 15-48.0N, 136-36.0E
1200 - 14-58.9N, 135-10.8E
2000 - 13-51.5N, 131-55.4E

Saturday, 11 November 1944

During the forenoon heavy ships fueled destroyers, ALABAMA fueling IZARD, MANSFIELD and L.K. SWENSON. Although the Task Force arrived at the launching point at dawn, an extended line of thunderheads delayed the launching of searches until 0700. About 0900, strikes were launched against a Japanese convoy sighted at 11N, 124-18E. The remainder of the day was devoted to searches for and strikes against enemy shipping in the VISAYAS. During the afternoon, heavy ships continued fueling destroyers, ALABAMA fueling BRUSH, BLUE and S.N. MOORE. At this time S.N. MOORE transferred a medical patient suffering from burns to this ship for treatment. About 1530 withdrawal began to a fueling rendezvous.

Positions: 0800 - 13-08.5N, 126-48.4E
1200 - 13-11.5N, 125-59.0E
2000 - 12-35.0N, 127-07.3E

Sunday, 12 November 1944

The Task Force rendezvoused with a fueling group at 12N, 133E. Prior to fueling from tankers, at which time ALABAMA fueled from PECOS, heavy ships topped off destroyers, ALABAMA fueling L.K. SWENSON. Upon completion of fueling operations about 1400, Task Force 38 formed cruising disposition 5-X, axis 090°, with Task Group 38.3 at 0000, TG 38.4 at 24240, and Task Group 38.1 at 24120 in cruising disposition 5-R, axis 120°, guide in HORNET at 2240. ALABAMA at 4090. The Force then proceeded to vicinity of 15-30N, 123-30E to launch dawn strikes against Central and Southern LUZON. At 2100 a high speed approach was begun.

Positions: 0800 - 13-29.0N, 127-01.0E
1200 - 13-21.9N, 126-09.5E
2000 - 12-33.7N, 127-30.0E

Monday, 13 November 1944

During the night radar contacts were made on planes thought to be enemy search planes. At dawn, arrived at rendezvous and launched strikes against Japanese aircraft, aircraft facilities and shipping in Central and Southern LUZON area. Until late afternoon, the Force proceeded to maintain POINT OPTION. At dusk,

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proceeded to rendezvous with WASP group. About 1745 enemy planes attempted attacks on the Force. TG 38.1 assumed cruising disposition 5-V. Task Group 38.3 reported destruction of several enemy planes. No further attacks were experienced.

Positions: 0800 - 15-21.3N, 123-20.2E
1200 - 15-32.0N, 124-17.8E
2000 - 15-30.5N, 125-00.0E

Tuesday, 14 November 1944

About midnight contact was made with WASP and her escort. At this time Task Groups 38.3 at 0000, and 38.1 at 24120 were ordered to exchange stations. At 0330 WASP (CTF 38 embarked) escorted by BOYD, BROWN and SPENCE joined Task Group 38.1 and WASP took station 2000. Destroyers were assigned to the screen. At 0400, CTF 38 assumed tactical command of the Task Force. The Force then proceeded for the continuation of air strikes as on the preceding day. Radar contacts on enemy planes were experienced during the day, but no attacks developed. At dusk began withdrawal to 15-30N, 127-30E to await further orders.

Positions: 0800 - 15-15.9N, 123-38.2E
1200 - 15-18.5N, 123-51.8E
2000 - 15-19.7N, 125-34.5E

Wednesday, 15 November 1944

The Task Force proceeded to a fueling rendezvous at 0600. Task Group 38.3 was ordered to proceed to ULITHI and left the formation.

Positions: 0800 - 15-25.5N, 127-43.1E
1200 - 14-56.3N, 128-41.5E
2000 - 13-38.2N, 130-34.5E

Thursday, 16 November 1944

At dawn, the Task Group joined a fueling group at 13N, 132E. At this same time Task Group 38.2 joined. During the forenoon, while awaiting assignment to a tanker, ALABAMA fueled MANSFIELD and L.K. SWENSON. At 1000, ALABAMA fueled from SCHUYLKILL, completing about noon. During the early afternoon, HORNET joined Task Group 38.4 for duty and BELL and BURNS were ordered to escort BUNKER HILL to ULITHI. At 1600, Task Force formed cruising disposition 5-X, axis 070°, with Task Group 38.1 at 0000, Task Group 38.2 at 24120, and Task Group 38.4 at 24240. OTC and CTF 38 in WASP with Task Group 38.1. The Force then proceeded to remain in vicinity of 14N, 133 E, awaiting further orders.

Positions: 0800 - 11-47.2N, 132-05.6E
1200 - 11-58.8N, 132-43.8E
2000 - 12-49.0N, 133-49.2E

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Friday, 17 November 1944

At 0800, CTF 38 shifted his flag to HANCOCK with Task Group 38.2. At 1400, Task Force 38 formed cruising disposition 5-X, axis 060°. Task Group 38.2 took station at 0000, 38.1 at 24120, and 38.4 at 24240. About 1600, Task Group 38.1 formed cruising disposition 5-R-D, axis 080°, with ALABAMA at center, guide. CTG 38.1 in YORKTOWN at 2.5120. Fighter director exercises were conducted during the day.

Positions: 0800 - 12-54.9N, 131-06.5E
1200 - 13-15.3N, 131-24.1E
2000 - 12-47.0N, 130-32.0E

Saturday, 18 November 1944

The Task Force proceeded toward a fueling rendezvous. Task Group 38.1 with ALABAMA participating conducted Fighter Director drill and AA firing exercises at towed sleeves. The following ammunition was expended in this practice:

5"/38 cal. - 10 Rds AA Common
40MM - 1521 Rds.
20MM - 2200 Rds.

At 1300 met fueling group. Heavy ships topped off destroyers prior to fueling from tankers. ALABAMA fueled SPENCE and COLLETT but did not fuel. At 1507, ALABAMA received orders from Task Force Commander to report to CTG 38.4 (Rear Admiral R.E. Davison, USN, Commander Carrier Division TWO, ENTERPRISE, Flagship), to augment heavy ship support of that group upon departure of WICHITA for ULITHI and reassignment of OAKLAND to Task Group 38.1 and reported at 1600. ALABAMA took station 4060 in Task Group 38.4, cruising disposition 5-R, axis 060°, guide in PASADENA at center. Ships comprising this group were: ENTERPRISE (CTG 38.1 embarked), SAN JACINTO, MONTEREY, HORNET, ALABAMA, SAN DIEGO, NEW ORLEANS, PASADENA, WELLES, WAIKE, THORN, TWINING, GRIDLEY, MAURY, MC CALL, DYSON, MOALE, A.M. SUMNER, COOPER, O'BRIEN, BARTON and JAFFEY. The Task Force, upon completion of fueling, proceeded to a point off the east coast of LUZON to conduct air strikes in the LUZON area.

Positions: 0800 - 13-12.7N, 128-35.8E
1200 - 12-59.0N, 129-24.4E
2000 - 14-08.0N, 127-25.7E

Sunday, 19 November 1944

From a point off east coast of LUZON, sustained strikes were launched designed to inflict maximum damage on enemy aircraft, aircraft installations, and shipping in the LUZON area. These strikes continued throughout the day, with Night Fighters flying intruder missions over airfields near MANILA during early

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evening and rejoining during retirement. At 1709, Task Group 38.4 formed cruising disposition 5-V-D, axis 060°, as defense against enemy aircraft reported to be approaching the Force. Soon afterward 15 to 20 Bettys were intercepted by CAP and returning fighter strikes. Of the few which were not destroyed, two approached this group about 1825 and were taken under fire by other ships of the group. ALABAMA did not fire because of extreme range and unsatisfactory bearing. One and possibly both planes were destroyed. About 1841, two enemy planes approached this group from 050°, the course then being 055°T. Emergency turns were made to the left to 235°T to keep these planes astern of the formation. ALABAMA, with various other ships fired at the group as it passed down the starboard side of the formation, expending:

5"/38 cal. - 82 Rds. AA.

Because of darkness, results could not be observed. The Task Group then formed cruising disposition 5-V-N, axis 060°, and ALABAMA took station 5060. At 1955, disposition 5-R was formed. Upon completion of recovery of strikes, withdrawal to 14N, 133E began.

Positions: 0800 - 16-05.0N, 123-18.0E
1200 - 16-06.5N, 123-27.0E
2000 - 16-16.5N, 124-46.8E

Monday, 20 November 1944

At 0830, ALABAMA in company with PASADENA, MC CALL, THORN, WELLES and DYSON reported to CTG 38.1 for duty. ALABAMA took station 2.5210 in cruising disposition 5-R-D, axis 060°, PASADENA guide at center. CTG 38.1 in YORKTOWN at 2.5100. This group was comprised of the following ships: YORKTOWN, WASP, COWPENS, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, BOSTON, PORTLAND, PASADENA, TAUSSIG, BRUSH, L.K. SWENSON, MADDOX, BLUE, DE HAVEN, MANSFIELD, COLLETT, IZARD, CONNER, WELLES, THORN, MC CALL, DYSON, S.N. MOORE and SPENCE. TG 38.4 proceeded to ULITHI. The Task Force proceeded to a fueling rendezvous.

Positions: 0800 - 15-55.0N, 128-51.7E
1200 - 16-28.0N, 129-45.0E
2000 - 16-52.0N, 130-55.0E

Tuesday, 21 November 1944

The Task Force rendezvoused with a fueling group at dawn. THORN delivered a medical patient for further treatment. At 1030, ALABAMA fueled from PATUXENT. About 1400, PORTLAND, BOSTON, MC CALL, IZARD, CONNER, and BLUE were detached. Upon completion of fueling operations, about 1530, TG 38.1 formed cruising disposition 5-R, axis 060°, and proceeded to operate in the area. During fueling operations, ALABAMA replaced bushing in No. 2 shaft

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bearing. Repairs were successfully accomplished and all four shafts were put in full operation.

Positions: 0800 - 14-36.0N, 130-47.6E
1200 - 14-34.8N, 131-18.7E
2000 - 14-14.8N, 131-52.2E

Wednesday, 22 November 1944

During the day, this group operated to conduct Fighter Director Drill, AA firing practice at towed sleeves, and a Main Battery offset practice, ALABAMA and MASSACHUSETTS only, participating in the latter. ALABAMA expended nine 16"/45 cal. projectiles and nine service charges, and 60 rounds of 5"/38 cal.

Positions: 0800 - 13-16.0N, 132-23.0E
1200 - 13-27.8N, 131-48.8E
2000 - 13-05.0N, 130-32.8E

Thursday, 23 November 1944

At 0700, Task Group 38.1 was detached from duty with Task Force 38 and ordered to proceed to ULITHI. YARNALL, STOCKHAM and WEDDERBURN reported for duty and proceeded in company.

Positions: 0800 - 13-28.3N, 132-51.6E
1200 - 12-57.1N, 133-45.7E
2000 - 11-49.2N, 135-37.8E

Friday, 24 November 1944

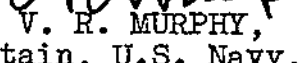
to

Thursday, 30 November 1944

Task Group 38.1 entered ULITHI Atoll during the afternoon. At 1400 ALABAMA anchored in berth 7. Ships present were various units of the Third Fleet, auxiliaries and small craft. SOPA in DIXIE.

Logistic operations were engaged in during the stay in port, which extended to 1 December 1944. Advantage was also taken of this opportunity for maintenance and upkeep. Aircraft attached to this vessel operated as ASP as directed by CTF 38.

About 1930, 30 November 1944, a boat was reported capsized off port beam of ALABAMA. Boats attached to this ship, as well as other small craft, effected rescue of personnel attached to destroyers OWEN and MILLER. Twenty-one officers and men were brought aboard ALABAMA, treated for immersion, and returned to their ships. The boat, identified as ComDesRon 52's gig, was returning⁴ liberty party from the beach. At the time, waters in the lagoon were choppy and high winds were being experienced.


V. R. MURPHY,
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.

BB60/A9-4/A12

U. S. S. ALABAMA

10/ks

07
DECLASSIFIED

1 January 1945.

From: The Commanding Officer.
To : The Commander-in-Chief, United States Fleet.

Subject: WAR DIARY; forwarding of.

Reference: (a) Cominch Ltr. FF1/A12-1/A16-3, Serial 7152
of 29 October 1943.

Enclosure: (A) U.S.S. ALABAMA (BB60) War Diary for the
month of DECEMBER, 1944.

1. In compliance with reference (a), Enclosure (A)
is forwarded herewith.

V. R. Murphy
V. R. MURPHY.

Copy to:
CinCPAC.

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR. 5200.9
of 27 SEP 58
BY 91C DATE 1 APR 1960

101482 **FILMED**

U. S. S. ALABAMA

07

WAR DIARY

MONTH OF DECEMBER - 1944

Friday, 1 December 1944.

Anchored in berth 7, ULITHI Atoll, Caroline Islands. Present are units of the UNITED STATES Third Fleet, various auxiliaries and small craft. SOPA in PRAIRIE. Zone -9 time in use. ALABAMA is assigned to Task Group 38.1 (Rear Admiral A. E. Montgomery, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, YORKTOWN, flagship), a part of Task Force 38 (Vice Admiral J. S. McCain, USN, Commander Second Carrier Task Force, HANCOCK, flagship) of the U.S. Third Fleet, (Admiral W. F. Halsey Jr., USN, NEW JERSEY, flagship). At 0500 ALABAMA sortied with Task Group 38.1; ships temporarily assigned were: YORKTOWN, WASP, COWPENS, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, SAN FRANCISCO, BALTIMORE, SAN DIEGO, OAKLAND, ASTORIA, DesRon 53 (DesDiv 106 less TWINING, plus HOBBY, BUCHANAN, FRANKS, THATCHER, DYSON, and SPENCE and DesDiv 105 less UHLMAN plus HAILEY): YARNALL, STOCKHAM, COLAHAN, HAILEY, CUSHING, BENHAM, HALSEY POWELL, BUCHANAN, HOBBY, FRANKS, DYSON, THATCHER, SPENCE and WEDDERBURN. The Task Group proceeded to 11N, 138E.

About 1600 upon order from Commander Third Fleet, Task Group 38.5 (Rear Admiral G. F. Bogan, USN, Commander Carrier Division FOUR and Commander Task Group 38.2, LEXINGTON, flagship) was formed. Ships comprising this group in the temporary organization were: LEXINGTON, ALABAMA, PASADENA, SAN JUAN, ASTORIA, COWELL, BOYD, CAPPS, D. W. TAYLOR, J. D. HENLEY, EVANS, HAZELWOOD, TRATHEN, HAILEY and BROWN. All other units proceeded to ULITHI.

Positions: 0800 - 10-10.9N, 139-58.2E.
1200 - 10-45.7N, 139-27.0E.
2000 - 10-56.4N, 139-10.5E.

Saturday, 2 December 1944.

Task Group 38.5 in cruising disposition 5R, axis 090°T, proceeded on various courses and speeds to remain in the vicinity of 12-05N, 140E. At 0315 SAN JACINTO reported for duty and took station in the disposition, and at 0700 SAN JUAN and BROWN were detached. During the day AA Firing exercises were conducted. ALABAMA expended:

5"/38 cal. - 18 Rds AA Common
40MM - 72 Rds
20MM - 381 Rds.

Positions: 0800 - 12-33.2N, 138-52.3E.
1200 - 12-35.0N, 138-37.6E.
2000 - 11-49.3N, 137-18.5E.

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Sunday, 3 December 1944.

During early morning conducted surface tracking drill and IFF observation check. Contact made with fueling group. During forenoon Task Group fueled from tankers, ALABAMA fueling from TALUGA and completing at 0830. During the afternoon, the Task Group with heavy ships in column conducted AA firing practice on towed sleeves. Fighter Director exercises were also conducted. In the firing exercise ALABAMA expended:

5"/38 cal. - 13 Rds AA Common.
40MM - 540 Rds.
20MM - 2336 Rds.

Positions: 0800 - 13-06.6N, 135-49.0E.
1200 - 12-58.0N, 136-29.3E.
2000 - 12-20.2N, 138-21.1E.

Monday, 4 December 1944.

At dawn commenced taking station for firing main battery in offset practice against PASADENA and ASTORIA. In this firing the following ammunition was expended by ALABAMA:

16"/45 cal. - 15 Rds AP
5"/38 cal. - 17 Rds AA Common.
40MM - 190 Rds.
20MM - 567 Rds.

Upon completion of exercises at 1400, the Task Group formed cruising disposition 5R, axis 060, guide in ALABAMA and proceeded to remain in area awaiting further orders, while conducting Fighter Director Training exercises.

Positions: 0800 - 12-07.0N, 138-03.0E.
1200 - 12-24.4N, 139-13.0E.
2000 - 12-02.2N, 139-36.0E

Tuesday, 5 December 1944.

During the morning, tracking exercises were conducted. AA training exercises, with heavy ships firing at towed sleeves from a special column disposition, was held during the afternoon. Proceeded upon completion in 5R to remain in area. The following ammunition was expended in these exercises:

5"/38 cal. - 15 Rds AA Common.
40MM - 598 Rds.
20MM - 747 Rds.

Positions: 0800 - 12-09.0N, 137-51.2E.
1200 - 12-26.0N, 138-49.0E.
2000 - 12-02.8N, 139-15.3E.

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Wednesday, 6 December 1944.

Tracking exercises were conducted during the morning followed by AA training exercises in which the following ammunition was expended:

5"/38 cal. - 30 Rds AA Common.
40MM - 847 Rds.
20MM - 750 Rds.

Positions: 0800 - 12-29.0N, 137-24.0E.
1200 - 11-55.5N, 137-46.7E.
2000 - 12-15.0N, 139-27.2E.

Thursday, 7 December 1944.

Conducted various training exercises.

Positions: 0800 - 11-52.0N, 138-10.6E.
1200 - 12-02.9N, 139-10.0E.
2000 - 12-22.5N, 139-13.0E.

Friday and Saturday
8 and 9 December 1944.

Upon entry ULITHI Atoll about 0900, 8 December, Task Group 38.5, to which ALABAMA was temporarily assigned was dissolved. ALABAMA resumed assignment to Task Group 38.1. Upon anchoring in berth 37, Zone -10 Time was set. SOPA in PRAIRIE. Various units of U.S. THIRD FLEET, auxiliaries and small craft present. This period was devoted to logistics. On 9 December WISCONSIN stood in, anchored and reported to Task Group 38.2 for duty.

Sunday, 10 December 1944.

In accordance with orders from Commander Third Fleet, Task Groups 38.1 and units of 38.3 sortied about 0600. ALABAMA sortied with Task Group 38.1 (Rear Admiral A. E. Montgomery, USN, Commander Carrier Division THREE, YORKTOWN, flagship). The group was composed of YORKTOWN, WASP, MONTEREY, COWPENS, MASSACHUSETTS, ALABAMA, BALTIMORE, BOSTON, NEW ORLEANS, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN DIEGO, DesRon 53: HALSEY POWELL, COLAHAN, UHIMAN, BENHAM, CUSHING, YARNALL, TWINING, STOCKHAM and WEDDERBURN, DesRon 47 (less TRATHEN, HAZELWOOD, HEERMAN, HOEL, HAILEY and JOHNSTON, plus HOBBY, WELLS, BUCHANAN and BROWN): McCORD, HAGGARD, FRANKS, HAILEY, WELLS, BUCHANAN, BROWN. After sortie Zone -9 Time was set. The Group proceeded independently in various dispositions to arrive at and remain in the vicinity of 12-50N, 137-20E, conducting various fighter director, tracking and AA firing exercises meanwhile. The following ammunition was expended by ALABAMA:

40MM - 881 Rds.
20MM - 1374 Rds.

Positions: 0800 - 10-27.5N, 139-54.2E.
1200 - 11-05.0N, 140-40.6E.
2000 - 11-57.0N, 139-39.8E.

27

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Monday, 11 December 1944.

About 0650, ALABAMA sighted a floating mine 300 yards abeam. A destroyer sank it with small arms fire. At 1700, the Task Group was formed in 5R; axis 070; guide BOSTON at center, and proceeded toward 15N-132E.

Positions: 0800 - 12-31.4N, 136-43.0E.
1200 - 13-20.0N, 136-00.3E.
2000 - 13-51.0N, 134-41.0E.

Tuesday, 12 December 1944.

During the forenoon the group conducted aircraft tracking exercises. At 1200, Task Groups 38.1, 38.2 and 38.3 rendezvoused to form Task Force 38, in cruising disposition 5X, axis 100 with 38.2 at 0000, 38.1 at 24090 and 38.3 at 24270. The force then proceeded toward a scheduled fueling rendezvous.

Positions: 0800 - 14-39.8N, 131-29.5E.
1200 - 14-48.0N, 131-40.0E.
2000 - 15-35.0N, 130-45.0E.

Wednesday, 13 December 1944.

At 0600, the Force rendezvoused with a fueling group at 15N, 132E. Various ships of the group were fueled from tankers; ALABAMA did not fuel. During the operation ALABAMA launched and recovered aircraft to qualify new pilots. Fueling was completed about 1150, and at 1200 the Force commenced a high speed run to 16-15N, 123-45E for launching strikes against enemy aircraft, and occupation of MINDORO by amphibious forces and airborne troops as directed by CTF 38 Operation Order 4-44.

Positions: 0800 - 17-12.3N, 128-48.7E.
1200 - 17-26.3N, 129-18.0E.
2000 - 17-40.8N, 127-35.2E.

Thursday, 14 December 1944.

The Task Force arrived at the launching point at dawn, and proceeded to maintain Point Option for the air strikes on LUZON. These continued throughout the day. During the night, intruder missions were flown over LUZON air fields. About 0417, Night CAP destroyed an Emily near the formation. At 1830, the Task Force formed cruising disposition 3-W, axis 100, 38.2 at 0000, 38.1 at 24120 and 38.3 at 24240.

Positions: 0800 - 15-58.0N, 123-27.8E.
1200 - 15-35.5N, 123-47.2E.
2000 - 15-17.0N, 125-04.2E.

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Friday, 15 December 1944.

Proceeding for the continuation of strikes on LUZON, and night hecklers over enemy air fields.

Positions: 0800 - 16-08.8N, 123-30.0E.
1200 - 15-48.9N, 124-01.8E.
2000 - 15-51.2N, 125-10.2E.

Saturday, 16 December 1944.

Proceeding as on previous day. At dusk, commenced withdrawal to fueling area.

Positions: 0800 - 16-18.4N, 123-42.4E.
1200 - 16-39.0N, 124-05.4E.
2000 - 17-02.5N, 125-32.5E.

Sunday, 17 December 1944.

Rendezvoused with tanker group about 1000. Prior to fueling from tankers, heavy ships fueled destroyers, ALABAMA fueling McCORD. At 1300, due to worsening of the weather, fueling was discontinued. The Task Force formed disposition 3-W, axis 040, course 290, speed 17, and was ordered to proceed to 17N, 128E. BUCHANAN and HOBBY were ordered to remain with the fueling group as it proceeded independently to the same position. Fueling operations were planned for the following morning.

Positions: 0800 - 15-14.8N, 129-42.2E.
1200 - 14-44.0N, 130-03.3E.
2000 - 15-02.3N, 128-58.8E.

Monday, 18 December 1944.

At 0000, course was changed to 180, and at 0200 to 320.

At 0500, course was changed to 180°. The storm was reported at 12.5N, 131E, moving NW at 12-15 knots and weather conditions were little improved. At 0710, course was changed to 060 to attempt to fuel DDs from GVs. At 0808, course was changed to 180°. Winds of force 50 knots were being experienced. All ships were rolling heavily. At 0913, MONTEREY changed course to 220 and reported all planes on hangar deck on fire. WELLES and McCORD left formation to stand by. CTG 38.1 reported CVL's unable to maintain present course, 180°, and at 0918, came to 220°, changing to 145 at 0945. At 0928, MONTEREY reported loss of steerageway, and dead in water. UHIMAN and BROWN also were ordered to stand by MONTEREY, at 0933, CTG 38.1 ordered

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Monday, 18 December 1944.

NEW ORLEANS, TWINING and McCORD to standby MONTEREY, and at 0939 ComThirdFleet ordered two tugs from the fueling group, TG 30.8, to stand by. MONTEREY at this time was in the after part of the formation. At 0945, MONTEREY reported fires under control but that she was still dead in the water. At 0956 NEW ORLEANS, as CTU 38.1.4, was ordered to take charge of MONTEREY, McCORD, TWINING, HAGGARD, BROWN and two tugs and proceed ULITHI, towing MONTEREY as required. At 0950 MONTEREY reported fires out and that she soon expected to have power. Orders for TU 38.1.4 to proceed ULITHI were cancelled. By 1000, visibility was zero. At 1045 course was changed to 200 speed 12. At 1052 BOSTON reported a CVE from fueling group 1000 yards to starboard, dead in water and drifting through the formation. At this same time COWPENS reported a fire on hangar deck and that she was coming to course 020. At 1055 the Task Group came to course 200. At 1104 COWPENS reported the fire was under control but considerable damage had been suffered. At 1158 course for the Task Group was changed to 120°. At 1244 COWPENS reported fire out and on course 270 at 3 knots. At 1303, BALTIMORE was ordered to form Task Unit 38.1.5 to include BALTIMORE, COWPENS, HALSEY POWELL and BENHAM.

During this period RUDYARD BAY, NEHENTA BAY and KWAJALEIN reported loss of steering control. WESSON drifted through formation, as well as several unidentified ships.

By noon the storm was at its fullest; ALABAMA was experiencing rolls of 25° to 30°. Both planes were so badly damaged as to be of no further value. The speed boat was washed overboard and a slight amount of minor damage was received.

The following is a summary of the weather conditions:

CLOUDS: - Nimbostratus 10/10 at 200 - 1000 Ft until 1300, then becoming cumulus and cumulonimbus 6/10 - 10/10 at 2000 Ft.
PRECIPITATION: - Continuous heavy rain until 1300. Then scattered showers until 1900.
WIND: - N 35 knots increasing and backing to 57 knots from 290° at 1300, then backing and decreasing to 18 knots from 195° at 2400. Maximum gust 83 knots from 355 at 0945.
VISIBILITY: - 6 - 12 miles decreasing to near zero from 1000 - 1330, then increasing, becoming better than 15 miles at 1600.
TEMPERATURE: - Lowest 78°, Highest 84°, Sea 83°.
BAROMETER: - Lowest 29.37 inches at 1300. Highest 29.79 at 2400.
SEA: - 15 - 25 Ft., increasing to about 38 Ft. from North at 1300, then decreasing to 8 - 10 Ft.

At 1600 the group ran out of the active storm area. High seas were still experienced.

At 1800 changed course to 200 to find a fueling area. At 2026, fleet axis was changed to 040°, and the remaining ships of the group proceeded in cruising disposition 5R.

Positions: 0800 - 14-41.5N, 127-48.7E.
 1200 - 14-04.8N, 127-48.7E.
 2000 - 13-12.2N, 128-43.7E. -6-

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Tuesday, 19 December 1944.

Task Group 38.1 in 5R, axis 040, proceeding to fueling rendezvous was rejoined by T.U. 38.1.4 and NEW ORLEANS, MONTEREY, TWINING and McCORD took stations in formation at 0515. At 0745, Task Unit 38.1.5 rejoined and BALTIMORE, HALSEY POWELL and BENHAM took stations. BUCHANAN was unable to remain in formation due to storm damage. All other assigned ships now present. At 0800, heavy ships fueled destroyers. ALABAMA fueled YARNALL and fueled from NANTAHALA, completing at 1441. At 1530, MONTEREY formed Task Group 30.3 consisting of MONTEREY, SAN JACINTO, COWPENS, HICKOX, LAWS, DYSON, BUCHANAN, WELLES and TABBERER and proceeded ULITHI. CABOT reported to Task Group 38.1 for duty. The group then formed 5R on axis 180 and proceeded toward 17N - 128E to launch air strikes against LUZON. BENHAM left formation and proceeded ULITHI.

During the morning, planes searched the area for survivors of HULL who was reported to have capsized during the storm. No results. SPENCE, MONAGHAN, WATERMAN and MELVIN R. NAUMAN unreported.

Positions: 0800 - 11-56.7N, 128-50.2E.
1200 - 12-33.0N, 128-32.8E.
2000 - 13-47.2N, 127-44.6E.

Wednesday, 20 December 1944.

Task Group proceeding as before. BALTIMORE reported hearing shouts in the water about midnight. Investigating destroyer reported negative results. At 0702, axis was rotated to 090°T.

Positions: 0800 - 16-07.0N, 128-12.0E.
1200 - 16-25.4N, 128-01.0E.
2000 - 16-46.1N, 126-57.7E.

Thursday, 21 December 1944.

During the night, wind force increased and the sea became rough. At 0120, the operations against LUZON were cancelled because of weather by Commander Third Fleet, and the Force was ordered to retire to a designated rendezvous, while planes searched ahead for storm survivors. About 1047, BROWN sighted and recovered 13 survivors of HULL. Course was changed to 125°T. At 1142, BROWN recovered 6 survivors of MONAGHAN. The Force then proceeded to search the area.

Positions: 0800 - 15-58.0N, 127-05.0E.
1200 - 15-27.0N, 127-19.6E.
2000 - 14-55.7N, 127-27.1E.

07

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Friday, 22 December 1944.

The Force commenced fueling from tankers at 0745. Prior to fueling from NEOSHO, ALABAMA fueled HAGGARD. At 1508, Fleet disposition 3W was formed on axis 090 with Task Group 38.2 guide at 0000 and Task Group 38.1 in station No. 2 and Task Group 38.3 in station No. 3.

Positions: 0800 - 15-18.9N, 130-13.5E.
1200 - 15-37.3N, 130-26.4E.
2000 - 15-18.2N, 132-04.1E.

Saturday, 23 December 1944.

At dawn, the Task Groups began operating independently, conducting various training exercises enroute ULITHI. During the morning AA training exercises were fired. ALABAMA expended:

5"/38 cal. - 55 Rds AA Common.
40MM - 760 Rds.
20MM - 3261 Rds.

During afternoon AA tracking exercises were held.

Positions: 0800 - 13-54.0N, 134-52.0E.
1200 - 13-57.5N, 135-45.8E.
2000 - 13-33.0N, 137-23.8E.

Sunday, 24 December 1944.

Prior to entry, Task Group conducted AA training exercises, ALABAMA expending:

5"/38 cal - 18 Rds AA Common.
40MM - 211 Rds.
20MM - 516 Rds.

At 1240, changed to Zone -10 Time and entered ULITHI Atoll. Anchored berth 36. Ships present: Task Force 38 of U.S. THIRD FLEET, various auxiliaries and small craft.

Positions: 0800 - 10-48.9N, 139-08.0E.
1200 - 10-07.5N, 139-53.1E.

Monday, 25 December 1944.

At dawn in accordance with Commander Third Fleet despatch 232307 of December, Captain Vincent R. MURPHY, U.S. Navy, in ALABAMA formed Task Group 30.3. Ships assigned: ALABAMA, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, OAKLAND, BROWN, BOYD, COWELL, J. D. HENLEY. This day was spent transferring various spare parts and items of equipment to other units of Task Force 38.

U. S. S. ALABAMA

Tuesday, 26 December 1944.

Task Group 30.3 sortied ULITHI at 1000 as ordered by CTG 30.3 (Captain V. R. MURPHY, USN, ALABAMA) in accordance with instructions contained in ComThird Fleet's despatch 232307 of December and proceeded along an assigned route for Pearl Harbor. The group was in formation 3R, with ALABAMA at center guide, NEW ORLEANS at 1120, MOBILE at 1240 and OAKLAND in screen on axis. 3L (with ALABAMA at 1000, others unchanged) was formed at 2000.

Positions: 1200 - 10-04.8N, 140-15.7E.
2000 - 10-20.2N, 142-27.0E.

Wednesday, 27 December 1944.

Proceeding in cruising disposition 3L. 3R resumed at 0920. During the day visual signalling drills were held. At 1100 changed to -11 Zone Time.

Positions: 0800 - 10-40.1N, 145-49.0E.
1200 - 11-05.3N, 146-25.3E.
2000 - 11-58.1N, 148-31.3E.

Thursday, 28 December 1944.

BOYD and J. D. HENLEY were detached and proceeded to report to Commander Task Force 94 in accordance with orders of Commander THIRD Fleet.

Positions: 0800 - 12-21.5N, 151-52.1E.
1200 - 12-11.2N, 152-51.0E.
2000 - 11-58.0N, 155-10.0E.

Friday, 29 December 1944.

Conducted various tactical and signalling exercises and drills.

Positions: 0800 - 11-36.0N, 158-34.5E.
1200 - 11-29.2N, 159-30.1E.
2000 - 11-01.2N, 161-46.4E.

Saturday, 30 December 1944.

Changed to Zone -12 Time at 1300. Fueled destroyers. Other heavy ships of the group became OTC for conduct of tactical exercises.

Positions: 0800 - 11-48.5N, 165-03.3E.
1200 - 11-50.1N, 165-56.4E.
2000 - 12-20.5N, 167-33.5E.

U. S. S. ALABAMA

07

Sunday, 31 December 1944.

Proceeding as before.

Positions: 0800 - 13-17.4N, 170-51.0E.
1200 - 13-33.4N, 171-48.4E.
2000 - 14-06.2N, 173-54.0E.

V. R. Murphy
V. R. MURPHY
Captain, U.S. Navy,
Commanding.